



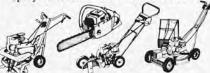
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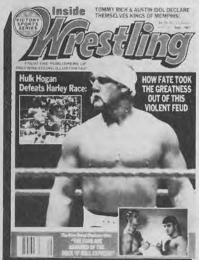
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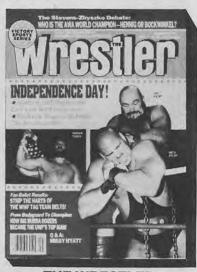
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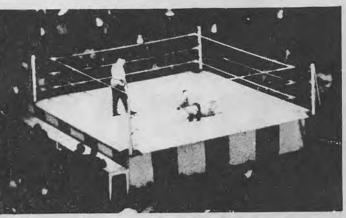
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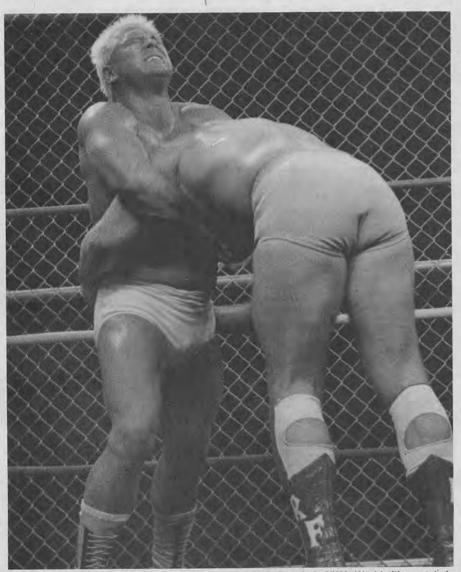
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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Ronnie Garvin locks Ric Flair in a front chancery during their NWA World title match in Detroit. Mike Facciani was glad that Garvin finally shut Flair's mouth and won the championship, ending months of pursuit.

## GARVIN SHUT UP FLAIR

NWA World champion Ron Garvin deserves a lot of credit. His relentless pursuit of Ric Flair paid off big. Garvin had confidence in himself and in his ability. He knew it was only a matter of time before he got Flair in the right place at the right time. A slimy

rat like Flair never truly deserved the title, and if it wasn't for the disqualification rule and outside help from his Horsemen buddies, he would have lost it long ago.

Garvin played it smart. He knew that he had Flair's number, and if he could get him inside a steel cage with nowhere for him to run and nobody to help him, it would spell disaster for Flair. I enjoyed watching "Hands of Stone" batter Flair from pillar to post inside that cage and then walk out with the World title.

No man in wrestling ever needed a thrashing more than Flair after the stunts he's pulled the past few years. Garvin proved once and for all that action really matters, not a lot of big talk. If a loud mouth and a total inability to back up your words won matches, Flair would be the greatest wrestler ever to step foot inside the squared circle. Obviously, this is not the case. Thumbs up to Ron Garvin, the man who shut Flair's mouth.

MIKE FACCIANI Johnstown, PA

## SAUCY AUSSIE

I'm writing to let the editors of this magazine and its sister publications know that you must be the most biased and hypocritical people I've ever come across.

Every wrestler that's in the WWF has at some time been in the other promotions. When they leave and head to the WWF, all hell breaks loose with you people. He or she is treated to your unfair treatment toward the WWF. When they are with the promotions you snuggle up to, they're upand-coming stars. You say McMahon thinks his fans are stupid. *You* people think we're complete imbeciles!

Give the real fans unbiased reports and treat all promotions fairly. I know some wrestlers deserve criticism for their behavior, but surely it applies to

(Continued on page 48)



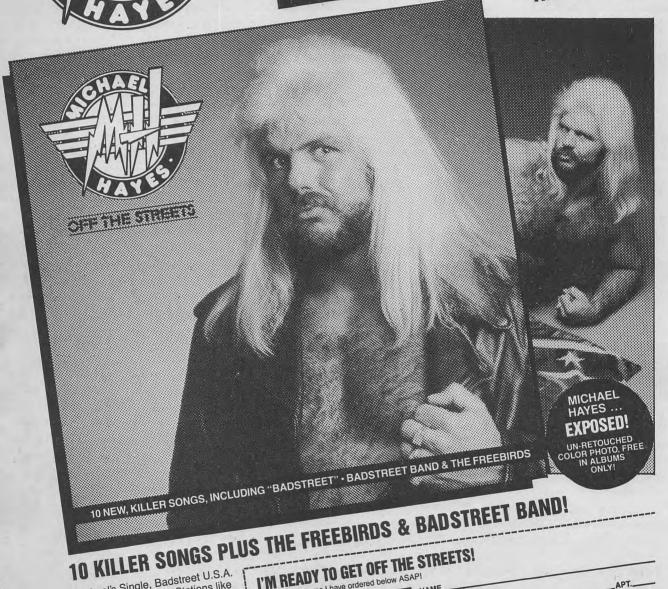
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Mr. T or Mr. E? Try Mr. X, as in ex-referee. The WWF's experiment to have Mr. T as Mr. E(nforcer) has apparently fallen flat on its face. The fans didn't buy the premise that Mr. T could bring respectability to WWF officiating, so they were unwilling to pay for the privilege of watching him referee. That being the case, there was no need for the WWF to keep him around. And word from my insiders says that they will not.

A fan poll in the November 1987 edition of this magazine posed the question: "Should Mr. T Be Allowed To Referee" Your answer was a resounding "NO!"

Sixty-three percent of those responsing opposed Mr. T. while 37 percent were in favor. "Let's be real about Mr. T." wrote Eddie Rufolo ofe Lyndhurst, New Jersey, voicing the majority view. "How can be a fair referee when he is friends with Hogan? Mr. " will side with anybody who is Hogan's friend and make sure anybody who could bose a threat to Hogan will get a fast three-count. If they want to get a real referee, they should sign someone like Lou Thesz. Thesz wouldn't take any abuse and he would be fair toward everyone."

Many of the same fans who opposed Danny Davis as a referee opposed Mr. @ T for the same reason. They don't want someone to tip the scales of justice in the opposite direction. They want referees who will will be just plain just.

I wholeheartedly agree with the fans' sentiment. But I do feel there is a place for Mr. T in this sport. If you remember back to WrestleMania I, Mr. T gave a far better showing of himself than anybody had predicted. With hard work and the proper training, he has the potential to become a pretty good wrestler. In that role, he wouldn't be expected to be unbiased.

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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum T'S MID-OCTOBER as this is being written, and wrestling fans around the country are getting ready for the NWA and WWF's big Thanksgiving shows, Starrcade '87 and The Survivor Series. Many fans also have their sights set on Reunion Arena, where Kerry Von Erich will make his long-awaited return against Brian Adias.

Meanwhile, lost in the shuffle of pre-megacard hype are the signs of a resurgence in the American Wrestling Association, which has gone through some hard times over the past few years. An exodus of talent—The Road Warriors, Rick Martel, Jesse Ventura, and Hulk Hogan, among others over the past five years—led to boring wrestling and sinking attendance figures.

But have no fear, AWA fans, because although The Midnight Rockers, Nick Bockwinkel, and Larry Zbyszko all recently joined the list of dear departed, Paul E. Dangerously is here to save the day!

To know what that means, you only have to look back to the first half of 1987 in the Mid-Southern area, where Dangerously led Austin Idol and Tommy Rich in a brutal war against Jerry Lawler. This feud gave us some of the most memorable matches of the year: a steel cage hair match in which Idol, Rich, and Dangerously humiliated Lawler in front of a frenzied crowd at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis, and a scaffold match that ended the feud. After defeating Idol and Rich, Lawler and Dundee broke Dangerously's leg and then nearly emasculated him with the steel ringpost.

(Continued on page 54)



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THE SIX-COLUMN headline (a size reserved only for the most important news stories) blared off the front page of *The New York Times* with frightening insistence: "STOCKS PLUNGE 508 POINTS, A DROP OF 22.6%; 604 MILLION VOLUME NEARLY DOUBLES RECORD."

Now I don't pretend to know anything about the stock market, but I do read the papers. And I paid attention in social studies class back in grade school. So when the papers pointed

out that the 508-point crash of October 19, 1987, saw the market drop nearly twice as much as in the pre-Great Depression Black Friday crash of October 28, 1929, (22.6 percent vs. 12.8 percent), I knew something was happening.

I thanked my good fortune that I had no money invested in the stock market, and I thought about people who did. People who were losing a lot of money.

I thought it would be an appropriate time to check in with Paul Ellering, Jim Cornette, and J.J. Dillon.

"The first thing you have to understand about the stock market," Paul Ellering told me via telephone from Japan, "is that nobody ever loses money—or makes money, for that matter—until they actually sell their stock. Say you buy a stock at 100 points. That's \$100 per share. Okay, the stock goes up to 150 points. If you sell it at 150, you make \$50 profit per share. But if you don't



Paul Ellering

sell, you haven't made any money. The stock could still go up or down. It's a question of where it is when you decide to sell that makes you money or loses you money.

"Now what happened on Monday [the 508-point crash] was that everybody panicked," Ellering continued. "People saw the market, which was too high to begin with, starting to

slide. Well, it had to slide sooner or later, it just kept going up and up. But when it did start sliding, people panicked and sold. And sold. And sold. And before you knew it, the market was down over 500 points."

I asked Ellering if he sold any of his reportedly extensive stock portfolio.

"Minor portions, only because they were tied in with a computer selling program," Ellering said. "But 85 percent of my portfolio remained untouched. And, like I explained earlier, if I don't sell those stocks at lower prices, I haven't lost anything. You'll also notice that in the two days following the crash, the market bounced back over



300 points. I bought a few blue chips [the most preferred and valuable stocks] late Monday during the crash, and I made quite a bit of money back, I might add."

"So what? So the stock market crashed! Big deal!" Jim Cornette was in a happy mood for someone whose mother probably lost millions in a matter of hours. "Are you kidding? Back in 1929 and 1930 and 1931, the Cornettes

owned the street corners that the unwashed masses were standing on selling apples and pencils. We owned the trees the apples came from, and the steel mills that made the cups that held the pencils. If you talk to mama, which you won't, because she doesn't want to talk to you, she'll tell you that her holdings are so vast and diverse, that nothing, and I mean *nothing*, can even make a dent in her fortune. Believe it, brother, that's what's made the Cornettes the strong family we are."

"I don't want to get involved in explaining the details, but the stock issued by Tully Blanchard Enterprises is private stock, not listed on the exchanges, and not traded publicly."

J.J. Dillon was not speaking as analytically as Ellering or as flippantly as Cornette. He was happy, though. Very happy.

"I can tell you, however, that TBE does in fact have an extensive portfolio of holdings in the American ex-



J.J. Dillon

changes, as well as in the foreign markets. And what occurred on Monday was a boom for TBE and myself.

"I'm not going to begin to attempt to explain to you all the intracies of margins and options, but let's just say that in the stock market, it's possible to capitalize on the misfortune of others. The larger their misfortune,

the greater the capitalization. Monday, October 19, 1987, was a red-letter day for me. I made a bundle."

So I kept reading the papers and kept trying to learn and understand. The only conclusion I could come up with was: Yes, you can make a fortune in the stock market, whether it goes up or down. You can also lose a fortune. It's a gamble, kind of like roulette; at best, an educated and calculated gamble like blackjack.

I'd love to see Ellering, Cornette, or Dillon in action in Atlantic City.

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# NAMES MAKI

Strike Force has struck!

**Rick Martel** and **Tito Santana**, a team formed only last summer, defeated **The Hart Foundation** for the WWF World tag team championship on October 27 before a sellout crowd at the War Memorial Auditorium in Syracuse, New York. The loss ended the Harts' title reign nine months and one day after they defeated **The British Bulldogs** in Tampa, Florida.



STRIKE FORCE

Strike Force came out flying and put **Brett Hart** and **Jim Neidhart** at a disadvantage for most of the match. After five minutes, Martel appeared to have Neidhart in a rollup for the pin, but Neidhart managed to kick out. Martel took him down again for the pin, but Hart ran in to interfere. Santana jumped in to take on Hart and even things up. Tito whipped Hart into the ropes and out of the ring, putting Strike Force in position to double-team Neidhart. They double-bodyslammed him before Martel forced Neidhart to submit with a Boston crab.

Jimmy Hart, the outspoken manager of the Foundation, had no com-

ment on the loss but immediately demanded a rematch. According to WWF sources, his wishes will be granted. This was Martel's third WWF tag team championship; he won the title back in 1980 with *Tony Garea* and then again in 1981. Santana held the WWF tag team title with *Ivan Putski* in 1979. Strike Force was formed after Martel's former teammate, *Tom Zenk*, left the WWF, which in turn caused the breakup of *The Can-Am Connection*.

Ironically, Martel lost his AWA World heavyweight championship to **Stan Hansen** back in 1985 when he submitted to a Boston crab.



KEVIN VON ERICH

**Kevin Von Erich** regained the World Class heavyweight title from **AI Perez** on October 17 in The Cotton Bowl, but has been stripped of the belt by the WCCW Board of Directors (an action taken after this issue's "Hotseat" interview with Kevin was conducted). After viewing films of Kevin's victory, the Board decided that **Kerry Von Erich** illegally interfered to help his brother win the match. Ker-

ry, standing on the ring floor, knocked out Perez with a discus punch.

"World Class reached the proper decision and I'm glad to see my man was vindicated," said manager **Gary Hart**. "There was no doubt in my mind that Kevin Von Erich used illegal means to beat Al Perez."

The turning point of the match came when Fritz Von Erich got into a fight with Hart and Brian Adias at ringside. Perez stuck his head outside the ring to help Hart and was stunned by Kerry's punch. Perez was then easily bodypressed by Kevin for the victory. "Looking at the tapes, I can see their reason for stripping me of the title," said a disappointed Kevin. "But they've done a lot worse than that and gotten away with it. I'm not worried, though, 'cause I'm gonna get that belt back from Perez, and if I don't, my brother will." See the February 1988 issue of The Wrestler for an update on Kerry's comeback.

Former WWF World tag team champion **Greg Valentine** has re-signed a contract with the WWF. Apparently, Valentine's demand for more shots at



GREG VALENTINE

# N' NEWS

# Bill Apter reporting...

WWF World champion *Hulk Hogan* has been granted . . . The WWF was planning an old-timers battle royal for Byrne Meadowlands Arena on November 16 with *Buddy Rogers*, *Gene Kiniski*, *Lou Thesz*, and *Bobo Brazil*, among others . . . *Bulldog Bob Brown* is back in the Central States area and in hot pursuit of the heavy-



**BULLDOG BOB BROWN** 

weight title held by **Earthquake Fer- ris.** Brown was injured a few months ago . . . The WWF just returned from its first-ever tour of Europe. The mid-October trip overseas included stops in Paris and Milan, Italy. The Paris show was a sellout.

Jim Crockett Promotions scheduled its first-ever card in the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island for November 25, a combined NWA-UWF extravaganza featuring "War Games/The Match Beyond IV." And there's more to come! The finals of the 1988 Bunkhouse Stampede will be held at the Coliseum on January 24 and it will appear on na-

tionwide pay-per-view TV. While Thanksgiving Day saw a Survivor Series vs. Starrcade PPV battle, at press time the WWF has no PPV card planned for that day. So Crockett Promotions will finally get a chance to test the waters in this potentially lucrative area. **Dusty Rhodes** has won the last two Bunkhouse Stampedes.

Pacific Northwest heavyweight champion *Mike Miller's* title is under assault from a 6-foot tall, 450-pound newcomer from Nebraska named *The Avalanche* . . . Continental officials finally accepted *Wendell Cooley's* resignation of the Continental heavyweight title and are holding a tournament for the vacant belt in Birmingham, Alabama . . . Stampede North American champion *Owen Hart* is



OWEN HART

back from his tour of Japan. Also, *Cpl. Kirchner* is wrestling in Calgary and teaming with *Bruce Hart* and *Viet Cong Express I . . . Nord the Barbarian* is back in the AWA and teaming with *Wahoo McDaniel.* They're feuding with the "*Original*" *Midnight Express*, the number-one

contenders to the AWA World tag team championship. *Jerry Lawler* and *Bill Dundee* regained the belts from *Dr. D* and *Hector Guerrero* on October 26.

Some tragic news to report. Legendary wrestler *Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon*, a former AWA World heavyweight and World tag team champion, had portions of his right leg amputated after getting hit by a car while walking down a street in Des Moines, lowa. After five operations, doctors were



MAD DOG VACHON

forced to remove parts of his leg. Doctors plan to fit Vachon with a temporary artificial leg in six to eight weeks, and later with a permanent custommade prosthesis. Mad Dog's left leg was also badly broken in the accident and doctors had to insert four pins and a steel rod. Vachon was struck by a hit-and-run driver and apparently lay unconscious in a ditch for almost eight hours. The driver of the car has since been charged.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches!

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July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von

Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino,

Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel. May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras,

Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino. June 1977/Stories include: Patera,

Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel. July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sam-

martino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include:

Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

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February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

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Biase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

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caras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

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Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano. September 1980/Stories include: Ladd,

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January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

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NAME

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Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

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Blanchard, Windham, Street. September 1983/Stories include: Ho-

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September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack. October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

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May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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# THE By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

ANDY SAVAGE. THE Honky Tonk Man. One Man Gang. Killer Khan. Brutus Beefcake, Hercules Hernandez. Adrian Adonis. Greg Valentine. Paul Orndorff. Harley Race. King Kong Bundy. Magnificent Muraco. These wrestlers—with one exception—share

something in common. They all have been given the opportunity to defeat Hulk Hogan and capture the WWF title. In every case—except one—the wrestlers were offered several rematches against the WWF champ.

The exception: Greg Valentine. That's worth noting, because the WWF's reluctance to grant him a title shot may force him from the territory. Rumors that Valentine is heading for the NWA are rampant. Valentine remains mum on the topic and those closest to him won't speculate, but his discontent is well known—and amplified, because Valentine and Dino Bravo aren't receiving many title shots against the WWF tag team champs, either!

The question is: Why would the WWF allow one of its top grapplers to slip between the cracks? Valentine is being courted like royalty by at least five different promoters. But at home he is being treated like an unwanted child.

According to a high-ranking WWF source, there are several reasons to explain Valentine's fall from grace. None of them wash. "The WWF is so damn talentrich," I was told by one source, "that they could afford to lose Valentine. He is easily replaced."

But Greg Valentine is irreplacable, especially in a feder-

Hulk Hogan whips Greg Valentine across the ring during one of the few WWF World title matches that Valentine received. Eddie Ellner reports that Valentine is set to leave the WWF because he's received very few shots at the single or tag team titles. Promoters elsewhere are anxious for his services.

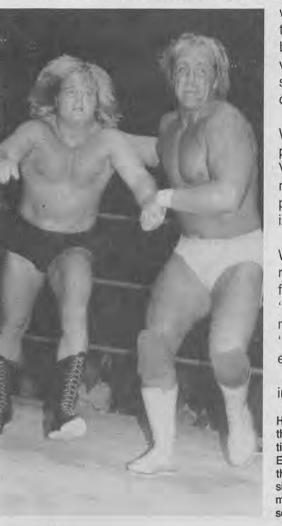
ation that is overidden by high-priced, overrated talent. The WWF's willingness to discard a grappler of Valentine's skills and tenacity is remarkable. The sky's the limit for One Man Gang, Ted DiBiase, and Rick Rude—wrestlers who arrive in clouds of thunder, are summarily defeated by Hogan, and leave hundreds of thousands of dollars richer for the experience. All while Valentine is out in Peoria and Bangor wrestling his heart out night after night.

Greg Valentine is the backbone of a successful federation. Hardworking, consistent, never a prima donna, denying personal glory and rarely asking for anything in exchange, except an occasional title shot. If all it would take to appease Valentine is a few yearly stabs at Hogan, isn't it worth it?

"Valentine is primarily a tag team wrestler. We don't want to change people's perception of him," said a WWF insider. What does that mean exactly? "We don't want to change people's perception of him." It wasn't long ago that Valentine was a leading contender for the NWA World title. He's a former U.S. champion, and held dozens of minor singles belts across the country.

The truth is that Valentine is as capable a singles wrestler as most, and certainly is far superior to his former partner Brutus Beefcake who, before turning good, enjoyed at least a dozen cracks at Hogan. My apologies for suggesting the WWF should rattle fan perceptions; they might be sur-

(Continued on page 62)



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# A SON—BY LIZ HUNTER SSIGNMEN

[Editor's note: Last month, Liz presented an interview with Ronnie Garvin conducted before he won the NWA World title from Ric Flair. This month, a talk with Garvin—the champion—conducted shortly after "Hands of Stone" pinned Flair in Detroit on September 25 to win the belt.]

LIZ HUNTER: You knew, from your previous matches against Flair, that you could defeat him. Were you any more confident going into this match than you usually are?

RONNIE GARVIN: I'm always confident going into my matches. There's not a match I ever signed for I didn't think I'd win. With Flair, though, you experience a curious exasperation before the bell. You feel that no matter how good you are, you're not going to win—or at least win the belt.

**LH:** Did you prepare differently the night of September 25?

RG: No, not really. I just repeated to myself the basics. You must do two things to beat Flair: You must contain him and you must hurt him. Then he can't run away or get himself disqualified. Some people think if you slug it out against him, he'll forget he's in danger and he'll go toe-to-toe with you and try to take your head off. That's a mistake. Flair always knows where he is and what he's doing.

**LH:** Describe the punch that set up the pin.

RG: It wasn't my best punch, I'll you that. I once hit Arn Anderson so hard I was afraid I killed him. But this one had enough on it. It



Ronnie Garvin is surrounded by his friends after winning the NWA World championship from Ric Flair. Garvin tells Liz Hunter he prepared no differently for the title match than he did for his other encounters with Flair.

worked, that's all I know.

**LH:** Were you surprised to see Flair hurt so? At that point did you realize you might be the champion?

**RG:** I saw Flair stagger—but he's wrestling's greatest actor. You never know for sure if he's hurt or if he's setting a trap. But I looked in his eyes and I knew he wasn't right.

**LH:** Kerry Von Erich once said that when he beat Flair for the title, the pin and everything afterward appeared to move in slow motion. Did you experience anything similar?

**RG:** The truth is, Liz, I thought of my brother, Jimmy. When we were growing up we used to wrestle in our backyard and imagine every match was for the NWA World championship. When I got

ready for the flip I felt like saying, "Here I come, Jimmy! I'm gonna get you!" I think my experience was similar to Kerry's in that time seemed to lose all meaning. I guess we all want to relish the really big moments.

**LH:** What went through your mind when Flair's shoulders were pinned?

RG: I looked toward the ropes. I wanted to make sure Flair's feet weren't on the ropes. Even though we were practically in midring, I wanted to check. I'd been burned too many times in the past. I knew this was it. Flair was helpless. When the referee started counting, I knew I was the champ.

LH: Was it your greatest moment as a professional wrestler?

(Continued on page 52)

# THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



**Slant-Eyed Slaughter** 

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

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Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami

• "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula

Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura

Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama

vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi

• "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs.

"Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Hagiwara

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JAPANESE WOMEN'S PRO WRESTLING

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- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
  • "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil"



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# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

# PITTSBURGH, PA By David Marsh



BARRY WINDHAM vs. DICK MURDOCH



In this match for the Western States Heritage championship, Windham started out fast with armdrags, headlocks, and hiptosses before Murdoch took over with some vicious brawling. Murdoch began arguing with some fans, allowing Windham to recover. The action spilled outside the ring, and by the time the two men returned, the time limit had expired.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express by DQ in a U.S. tag team title match . . . The Warlord and Teijho Khan beat The Cuban Connection . . . Todd Champion pinned Samurai Warrior I . . . Mike Rotundo defeated Samurai II . . . Ron Simmons pinned The Terminator . . . Jimmy Garvin defeated Dory Funk Jr. when Funk threw Garvin over the top rope.

ST. LOUIS, MO By Dave Jones



SHERRI MARTEL vs.
VELVET McINTYRE



Velvet controlled most of the match with an array of scientific moves, until Martel countered with rulebreaking tactics. Mc-Intyre then battered the champ from post to post and bounced her on the base of her spine four times. Martel won when she reversed the momentum of her challenger's cross-bodyblock and grabbed a handful of tights to score the pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: One Man Gang pinned Junkyard Dog . . Magnificent Muraco beat Bob Orton . . Nikolai Volkoff pinned Hillbilly Jim . . Davey Boy Smith & Billy Jack Haynes beat Demolition by DQ . . Paul Orndorff beat Rick Rude via countout . . Haynes defeated King Kong Bundy . . One Man Gang won a 12-man "royal rumble."

# NASHVILLE, TN By Tracy Byers



VS. TED DIBIASE



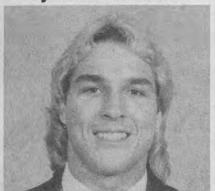
DiBiase and bodyguard Virgil came out before the bell and insulted the fans until Hogan slammed their heads together and atomic-kneedropped DiBiase out of the ring. Hogan was distracted by Virgil and DiBiase elbowsmashed him from behind. Hulk rallied and floored DiBiase with a foot to the face. Virgil leaped up to the ring apron, but when DiBiase again tried to attack Hogan, the champ moved and DiBiase hit Virgil. Hogan then pinned the stunned DiBiase.

OTHER BOUTS: Randy Savage defeated Harley Race ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Sika ... Jacques & Raymond Rougeau wrestled Dino Bravo & Greg Valentine to a draw ... Siva Afi lost to Tiger Chung Lee ... Magnificent Muraco pinned Cowboy Bob Orton ... David Sammartino was beaten by Barry Horowitz.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



# DENVER, CO by Mark Robinson



TERRY TAYLOR vs. RON SIMMONS

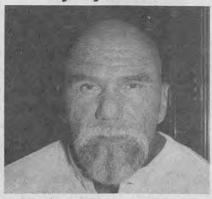


Simmons started off the match with a series of armbars and armdrags. At about the 10-minute mark, Taylor took control and nearly pinned Simmons several times. With 30 seconds left, Simmons slammed Taylor off the top rope and then climbed up to deliver the finisher. But as he was about to come off the ropes, Eddie Gilbert held him back until time ran out

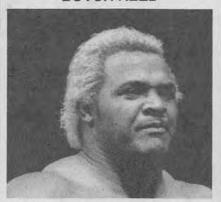
back until time ran out.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors retained their All-Japan International belts against Stan Lane & Big Bubba Rogers . . . Barry Windham pinned Ivan Koloff to retain the Western States title . . . Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin defeated the Sheepherders by DQ . . The Canadian Kodiaks pinned Kendall Windham & The Italian Stallion . . . Rick Steiner beat Shane Douglas.

# NEW YORK, NY by Elyse Zois



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM vs. BUTCH REED



After both men made several unsuccessful attempts to climb out of the steel cage, Graham applied the sleeperhold. Reed escaped by ramming Graham into the cage. Superstar then tried to put Reed out with a bearhug and got rammed again. Finally, Reed tried to knock Graham out with a pair of brass knuckles. Superstar grabbed them away, knocked Reed out, and walked out the door victoriously.

OTHER BOUTS: Strike Force won a best-of-three-falls match against The Islanders . . . Billy Jack Haynes pinned Nikolai Volkoff . . . Randy Savage pinned Killer Khan . . . Magnificent Muraco pinned Sika . . . Rick Rude defeated Paul Orndorff by countout . . . Ivan Putski pinned Iron Mike Sharpe . . The Killer Bees beat Dino Bravo & Greg Valentine . . Outback Jack pinned Jose Estrada.

# MILWAUKEE, WI by Ed Van Tassel



CURT HENNIG vs. JERRY BLACKWELL



Hennig seemed on his way to losing the AWA World title as Blackwell had him semiconscious in the corner and prepared for a running splash. Referee Gary DeRusha tried to stop Blackwell by standing in front of Hennig, but Blackwell charged anyway, crushing both DeRusha and Hennig, thus earning a disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Tommy Rich pinned Adrian Adonis, after which Adonis beat him with the ring bell while manager Paul E. Dangerously distracted the referee . . . D.J. Peterson pinned Soldat Ustinov . . . Nick Kiniski beat Alan West . . . The "Original" Midnight Express & Kevin Kelly lost to Wahoo McDaniel, J.T. Southern, & Mitch Snow when Snow pinned Kelly . . . McDaniel won a \$100,000, 21-man battle royal.



# matt Plans Brock's SING SILANG

GANYRU ISLAND, JAPAN: Make that about 1,000 feet above Ganyru Island, Japan, and about a quarter-mile to the east. The Japanese are famous for their innovative wrestling ideas, and one of the most unusual matches in the history of the sport took place on this deserted island in the Pacific just off the mainland. Antonio Inoki and Mr. Saito, the principles in some of the most successful cards ever held in Japan, this time decided to wage war in front of nobody, except a handful of reporters, photographers, TV people, and Japanese wrestling officials. I wasn't among them, and that's why this report is coming from above and east of Ganyru Island. I got here on October 3, one day before the match, only to find out that the boat had already left for the island and there was no way for me to get there. Well, I didn't spend all this time in the

スプロレスの原文になった。 Mail 1.7.7 他は様々のでは、 Mail 1.7.7 他は、 Mail 1.7.7 他は様々のでは、 Mail 1.7.7 他は様々のでは

JAPANESE COVERAGE OF INOKI-SAITO

business just to be left behind after flying all the way from New York. I rented a helicopter (the pilot virtually scalped me, but that's between this magazine and my expense account) and bought a good pair of binoculars and watched the match from high above the island. The match was supposed to start at sunrise but didn't begin until 4 p.m., and that's where I ran into trouble. The 'copter had to keep flying back to the mainland to refuel. Finally, Saito came out of his tent and walked to the ring, where he was attacked by Inoki. Let me tell you this, Inoki was a wildman. He just tore out of the jungle and he meant business. The whole match lasted a little over two hours and Inoki won it with a sleeperhold. Legend has it that the old Japanese samurai warriors used to fight to the death on this island, but I think Inoki and Saito rewrote the legend in this match. I just wish I could've seen it from solid ground.

CHARLOTTE, NC: Hypocrisy, thy name is National Wrestling Alliance. Rules are rules, plain and simple, and there's a reason why the 30-day rule was implemented: It makes sense. It's there to prevent situations like what occurred in the AWA, where Curt Hennig refused to defend his World championship for weeks and weeks on end. It's to prevent a man from just holding a belt after winning it and making a sham out of the whole system. This is the rule: A champion must defend his title at least once every 30 days. That's not asking for much. Even Hulk Hogan defends the WWF World title at least once a week or so. But here in the NWA, new World champion Ronnie Garvin, the so-called "working man's champ," decided to take a 40-day vacation from title defenses, leading up to his clash with former champ Ric Flair at Starrcade. Here's the explanation from Jim Crockett: "The NWA Board of Directors . . . felt that Garvin's pre-[title] win match schedule, combined with his heavy schedule immediately after winning the title, and the fact he

# Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

wanted to do special training for Starrcade, warranted a granting of his request." Well, those are the breaks. Did Garvin expect to have things easy after winning the belt? And was his pre-win match schedule any tougher than Flair's defense schedule? And wouldn't every wrestler love to go into special training before a big match? This is ridiculous. Be a man, Garvin! Defend that belt. Prove that you're a better man than Flair. Right now, you're a notch below him. A big notch.

LAS VEGAS, NV: Adrian Adonis makes me sick, and any red-blooded American male with any respect for himself should feel the same way. If there's



LANCE ALLEN VS. ADRIAN ADONIS

a fatter, more disgusting wrestler in the sport, I don't want to see him. And yes, I am considering Abdullah the Butcher; compared to Adonis, Abby's got muscle tone. Adonis once had the tools to become a great star, and he wasn't in bad shape. Quite obviously, he couldn't keep his face out of the refrigerator, and now his tremendous athletic skills have been rendered practically useless. What happened to Adonis shouldn't happen to anyone. Lose some weight, Adrian, or else they'll soon roll you out of the ring and right into your grave.

DALLAS, TX: Back in Von Erich country for the big show at The Cotton Bowl. This place is huge and was meant for football, not wrestling. Wrestling was meant for dirty, little smoke-filled arenas with glaring lights over the ring and the fans practically right on top of the wrestlers as they walk in from the dressing room. World Class has that in the Sportatorium, a ragged old building with tremendous charm, but they insist on seeing 5,000 fans and 67,000 empty seats in a 72,000-seat stadium. It looks ridiculous and it is ridiculous. By any measure, 5,000 fans isn't bad for a World Class show, but this place makes it look bad. Besides, this was a good shownot a great show, but certainly interesting. Kevin Von Erich finally regained the World Class heavyweight title from Al Perez, which came as a big surprise to me because I thought Perez was only going to improve the longer he held the belt. Anyway, he might still have it. Fritz and Kerry Von Erich were at ringside for Kevin and got into a little scuffle with Gary Hart and Brian Adias, who were there for Perez. Perez stuck his head through the ropes to help Hart, but Kerry landed a solid punch from the ring floor. Kevin then took advantage of this by delivering a flying bodypress for the win. Hart is protesting the match and I can't see how he won't win it. The other big event on the card was Kerry's public sparring session/workout with three opponents. I won't say much about this, but Kerry didn't seem to be in the best shape as he made his way back to the dressing room afterward. I have a feeling this comeback will be short-lived. In reality, he probably shouldn't be coming back at all.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



# **DARLING DAGMAR**

The midget wrestling star was a legend in the early 1970s, but married later in the decade and retired. Dagmar is currently employed by a Public Broadcasting System station in Columbia, South Carolina, where

she and her husband live. "I'm very happy now and I have no plans to return to wrestling," said Dagmar. "I loved wrestling and I loved the attention of the fans, but it became time for me to settle down."



## **PEDRO MORALES**

Morales, the only man to ever win all three WWF titles—the World and Intercontinental singles belts, and the World tag team title (with Bob Backlund)—has been missing from recent WWF cards. The popular Puerto Rican vet-

eran has worked his way up the corporate ladder and is now a talent and publicity agent for the WWF. He plans to wrestle occasionally and to keep in good shape, but reports that he won't go after another major title.



# MANNY FERNANDEZ

Fernandez, a two-time former NWA World tag team champion, has been on the move since he and Rick Rude lost the belts to The Rock 'n' Roll Express early last year. The Mexican star left the stable of manager

Paul Jones, left the NWA behind, and signed a contract to wrestle in the Mid-Southern area. "I have new goals," said Fernandez. "From now on, I'm on my own and I'm after the Southern and International singles titles."



# CPL. KIRCHNER

The patriotic American wrestler failed to strike it big in the WWF after years of trying and has now decided to wrestle for Stampede Promotions in the western Canadian provinces. He has already allied himself with rookie sensation

Owen Hart and declared war on Gama Singh, Makian Singh, and Jason the Terrible. "Owen's one of the best scientific wrestlers I've ever seen, and we're gonna get rid of these scoundrels," said Kirchner.

# INSIDE WRESTLING

# **RONNIE GARVIN**

139

# CAPSULE PROFILE

**DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL and** rugged individual, NWA World champion Ronnie Garvin is one of the most respected wrestlers in the sport ("I've never lied to anyone and always done my best") ... The 6'2", 231pound native of Montreal, Quebec, is the brother of Jimmy Garvin ("We've had our differences in the past, but one thing's never changed: I've always loved Jimmy") ... Started wrestling as an amateur at age 15 in local YMCA competition and was also an amateur hockey star and Golden Gloves boxer ("I did it all, but wrestling was in my blood") ... Turned pro in 1965 in Montreal, but soon did most of his wrestling in Boston, Louisiana, and Alabama ("I had to get away from home at the time just to get out on my own") ... He and brother Terry formed an outstanding tag team in 1973 and 1974 under the guidance of limmy ("A great time in my life, because we were all together") ... But following an argument with Jimmy, Ronnie went out on his own and spent the next four years in Tennessee, where he held the Southeast title and Southeast tag team belts twice ("I proved to myself that I didn't need my brothers to make it') ... Then moved on to Georgia and feuded with Jake Roberts ("People are still talking about

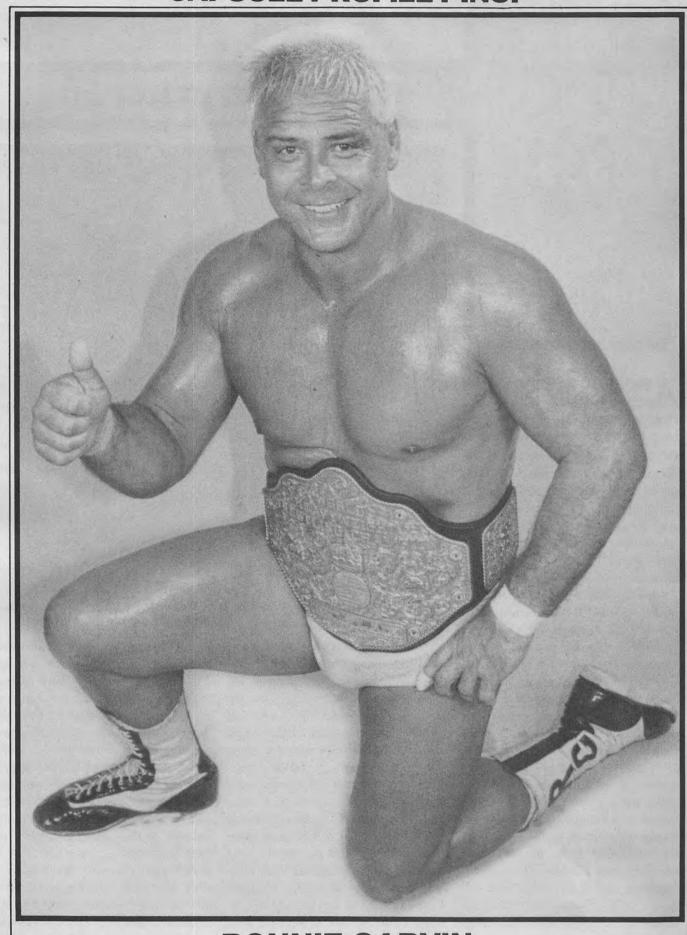


NWA World champion Ronnie Garvin tries to roll Ric Flair into a Boston crab but is forced to break the hold. The two adversaries are scheduled to meet again at Starrcade '87.

that one because it was so intense") ... With Jerry Oates, defeated The Road Warriors for the National tag belts in July 1984 ("Looking back, I'm not sure how we did it') ... Beat Ted DiBiase for the National heavyweight belt in October 1984 and was given several title shots at NWA World champion Ric Flair ("I learned from those bouts and used them to beat Flair this time") ... Reunited with brother Jimmy for one night in Montreal in 1985 ("That planted the seed that got us back together two years later") ... With teammate Magnum T.A., advanced to the finals of the inaugural Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament in April 1986, where they lost to The Road Warriors

in the finals ("That was a great match and I'm not ashamed of the way we wrestled") ... Finally got back together with his brother last year when Jimmy ran into the ring after Jim Cornette threw fire in Ronnie's eyes ("I'll never forget what he did for me") ... Embarked on a series of title shots against Flair last summer and finally won the World championship on September 25 in a steel cage match ("The greatest moment of my career, a moment of total fulfillment") ... Promised to be a working-class champion but was criticized for taking a 40-day hiatus from title defenses leading up to his Starrcade clash with Flair ("I wanted to make sure I was in the best shape possible for that match").

# **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**RONNIE GARVIN** 



UWF DOMINATION!

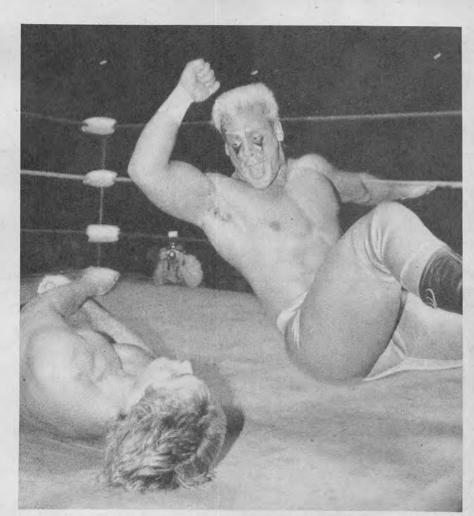
Ever since his arrival in the UWF, Sting has been marked for greatness by most wrestling experts. Now, with two pro years and Eddie Gilbert behind him, Sting has a plan to realize his incredible potential

"If he can get away from the influence of [Eddie] Gilbert, he'll be a candidate for Wrestler of the Year someday."

-Pro Wrestling Illustrated, March 1987

COMEDAY STILL HASN'T arrived of for Sting, but it's coming up fast. The days of succumbing to Eddie Gilbert's managerial influence are long gone. He has since dissolved himself of a partnership with Rick Steiner that retarded his singles development at a crucial point in his career.

Sting, a 270-pound native of who knows where (ring announcers regularly declare that he's "from every



Sting elbowsmashes Terry Taylor (left), who attacked him right before he was scheduled to face Shane Douglas for the UWF TV belt.



man's nightmare"), is well on his way to realizing his incredible potential.

But the date June 20, 1987, still lives with Sting, a nagging reminder that he still isn't there yet. On that day, Sting lost to Black Bart in the opening round of the Western States title tournament in Houston, Texas. "I still can't believe I lost to Bart," says Sting, angry about his showing in the tournament, "and I wouldn't have lost if not for Skandor Akbar interfering. I shouldn't have let him bother me. It was just ..."

A rookie's mistake. And that's especially bothersome to Sting, because he isn't a rookie anymore. He allowed himself to get distracted by Akbar. As a result, he was pinned by Bart at the seven-minute mark. And so the night Sting reserved for the winning of his first-ever singles title became a night of bitter disappointment. "People say forget about it, but I'll never forget," he says. "And because I'll never forget, it'll never happen again."

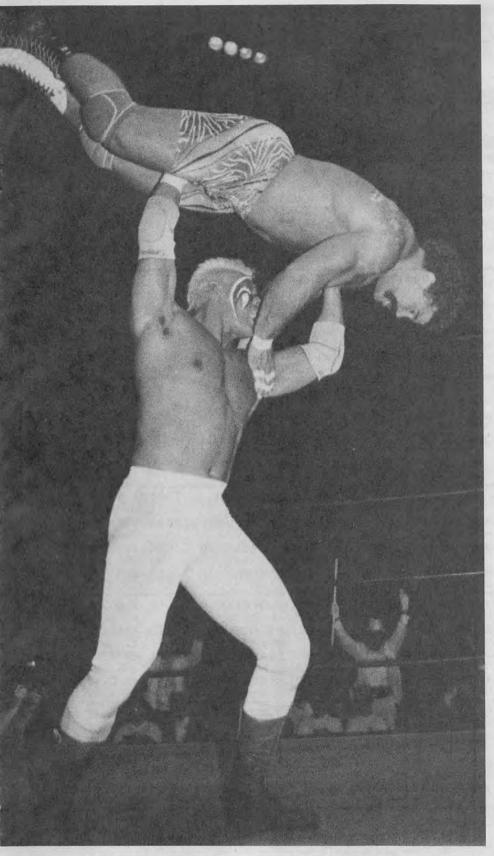
The wrestler from "every man's nightmare" pummels Taylor (above right). Eddie Gilbert throws Douglas out of the ring while Sting tries to get past the referee (below). Although he still has much to learn, Sting's progress has been impressive, especially since he dumped Gilbert as his manager.



That Western States tournament loss was one of very few blemishes in Sting's sophomore season. Another came in August when Sting was scheduled to wrestle Gilbert for the UWF TV title. On his way to the ring, Sting was sneak-attacked by

Terry Taylor and could not wrestle because of the injuries he sustained. Sting returned to the dressing room a broken man, but returned later in the evening and helped Shane Douglas win the belt from Gilbert.

Aside from the two incidents not-



Sting press slams Rick Steiner. With Gilbert in their corner, Sting and Steiner were UWF tag team champions.

with a knowing smile.

That plan includes an increasing number of shots at Lex Luger's U.S. title (comparisons between Luger and Sting are obvious: They have similar styles, physiques, and abilities to overpower opponents), stripping Terry Taylor of the UWF TV title, and eventually challenging UWF heavyweight champion Steve Williams. "That's the ultimate goal," says Sting, "and it'll come in time. I guarantee you."

The plan, however, does not include a renewed alliance with Eddie Gilbert. Wrestling experts insist Sting wasted his rookie year by joining with Gilbert, conveniently forgetting that Sting and Gilbert held the UWF tag belts for more than two months before losing them to The Fantastics. While still under the influence of Gilbert, Sting held the belts with Rick Steiner in early 1987. But there was only so much Sting could gain by staying with Gilbert, who finally wore out his worth.

"The man is nothing but a dirty low-down user," said Sting, who watched for over a year while Gilbert used his wrestlers to win the love of Missy Hyatt. "For a while there, I thought he could help me. And for a while, he did. But then it got to be ridiculous. I started to realize that Gilbert would never let his wrestlers get anything more than he had, and I know I'm better than that. Don't even *try* to put me on the same level as Eddie Gilbert."

No, Sting is a vastly superior wrestler. Unfortunately, his most glaring weakness as a rookie, his lack of scientific ability, still haunts him. To his credit, though, improving his scientific skills is part of Sting's master plan. "That's where Gilbert hurt me the worst," he says. "I have all the raw tools, I know I'm one of the most powerful men in wrestling, but Gilbert never tried to teach me how to wrestle."

(Continued on page 64)

ed above, Sting made the 11,392 fans who voted him second runner-up for Rookie of the Year in 1986 look very smart.

Now, with the two toughest years of a wrestler's career behind him—the rookie season because of new-

ness and inexperience, and the sophomore season because a wrestler is known and must expand on his repertoire—Sting is ready to establish himself as the dominant singles star in the UWF.

"And I've got a plan," he revealed

## **TOP 15**

- 1-HULK HOGAN 305, Venice Beach, CA
- **RONNIE GARVIN** 231, Montreal, Quebec
- -RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN

## NWA

**AWA** 

**WWF** 

- 1—RONNIE GARVIN 231, Montreal, Quebec
- LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL
- -RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN

1-CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

220, Robbinsdale, MN

305, Venice Beach, CA

255, Memphis, TN

245, Sarasota, FL

RANDY SAVAGE

THE HONKY TONK MAN

260, Midland, TX

GREG GAGNE

1-HULK HOGAN

WAHOO McDANIEL

## NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia **DUSTY RHODES**

4—LEX LUGER

268, Chicago, IL

265, Norman, OK

STEVE WILLIAMS

BARRY WINDHAM

236, Sweetwater, TX

NIKITA KOLOFF

275, Moscow, Russia

- 302, Austin, TX
- BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX

242, Hendersonville, TN

200, Hendersonville, TN

**BAM BAM BIGELOW** 

-TOMMY RICH

-JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

312, New York, NY

JEFF JARRETT

**—TED DIBIASE** 

247, Omaha, NB

468, Chicago, IL

RICK RUDE

ONE MAN GANG

368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

246, Robbinsdale, MN

STEVE WILLIAMS

6-ADRIAN ADONIS

- 8—RANDY SAVAGE 245, Sarasota, FL
- **CURT HENNIG** 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 10-AL PEREZ 238, Tampa, FL
- 11-TERRY TAYLOR 225, Vero Beach, FL
  - 8-STING 270, parts unknown
- **BUBBA ROGERS** 348, Louisville, KY
- -MIKE ROTUNDO 245, Syracuse, NY
- 11—JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
  - DICK SLATER 235, Albany, NY
  - KEVIN KELLY 271, Oakland, CA
- 10-JERRY BLACKWELL 474, Stone Mountain, GA
- -D.J. PETERSEN 245, St. Joseph, MO
  - 8—PAUL ORNDORFF 253, Brandon, FL
- 9—KING KONG BUNDY 446, Atlantic City, NJ -HACKSAW DUGGAN
- 280, Glens Falls, NY KILLER KHAN
- 275, Mongolia 8—HACKSAW DUGGAN
- JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN
- RICK STEAMBOAT 238, Honolulu, HI
- - 248, Pittsburgh, PA KING KONG BUNDY
- 446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 11-AL PEREZ 238, Tampa, FL

- 12—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- 13—THE HONKY TONK MAN 255, Memphis, TN
- **OWEN HART** 223, Calgary, Alberta
- 15-MIKE ROTUNDO 245, Syracuse, NY
- 12-MICHAEL HAYES 255, Atlanta, GA
- IVAN KOLOFF 240, Moscow, Russia
- CARLOS COLON 246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 15—MIKE MILLER 265, New Orleans, LA
- 12-J.T. SOUTHERN 254, Asbury Park, NJ
- 13-LARRY ZBYSZKO 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 14—SOLDAT USTINOV 260, Leningrad, Russia
- -MITCH SNOW 220, Mooresville, NC
- 12—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM 260, Paradise Valley, AZ
- 13—JUNKYARD DOG 260, New Orleans, LA
- **BUTCH REED**

12-KOKO. B. WARE

STING

15—OWEN HART

- 255, Kansas City, MO 15-BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
- 273, San Francisco, CA

229, Union City, TN

270, parts unknown

14—BAM BAM BIGELOW

368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

223, Calgary, Alberta

# MOST POPULAR RANDY SAVAGE

- 245, Sarasota, FL
- **HULK HOGAN** 305, Venice Beach, CA
- **-DUSTY RHODES** 302, Austin, TX

MOST HATED

LEX LUGER

268, Chicago, IL

243, Minneapolis

255, Memphis, TN

1—THE HONKY TONK MAN

- 265, Norman, OK **RONNIE GARVIN**
- 231, Montreal, Quebec
- NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia
- BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX
- TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- **TED DIBIASE** 247, Omaha, NB
- **CURT HENNIG** 235, Minneapolis, MN
- -ANDRE THE GIANT 497, Grenoble, France

- 275, Glens Falls, NY KEVIN VON ERICH
- 239, Denton, TX
- - 8—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- **TERRY TAYLOR**
- 225, Vero Beach, FL
- 12—BRIAN ADIAS 238, Denton, TX 13-RICK RUDE
- 246, Robbinsdale, MN **EDDIE GILBERT**
- 222, Lexington, TN 15-KEVIN KELLY
- 271, Oakland, CA

# TAG TEAMS

-RIC FLAIR

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON NWA World tag team champions
- RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA WWF World tag team champions -BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE
- U.S. tag team champions BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 6—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- THE BRITISH BULLDOGS No. 2 contenders to WWF World tag team title
- THE SHEEPHERDERS UWF tag team champions
- -THE ISLANDERS No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
- JERRY LAWLER & BILL DUNDEE AWA World tag team champions
- 11—THE NEW BREED
  - No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- -DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
- STEVE KEIRN & MIKE GRAHAM Florida tag team champions
- ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN Southeast Continental tag team champions
- BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN No. 1 conts. to Stampede International tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended October 28, 1987

# **ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**

\* ALABAMA CHAMPION: DR. TOM PRITCHARD

(October 26, 1987; from Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE (July 30, 1987; tournament final over Isamu Teranishi & Masanobu Kurusu;

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS (March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)
ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI (August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Bill Dunder

AWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROCKY JOHNSON & BILL DUNDEE

(July 6, 1987; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Memphis, TN)

**AWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BOBBY JAGGERS** 

(October 19, 1987; tournament final over Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)

AWA SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(October 26, 1987; from The RPMS; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG (May 2, 1987; from Nick Bockwinkel; San Francisco, CA)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JERRY LAWLER & BILL DUNDEE

(October 26, 1987; from Dr. D & Hector Guerrero; Memphis, TN)

**BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: GAMA SINGH** 

(August 7, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: EARTHQUAKE FERRIS

(September 27, 1987; from Rufus R. Jones; Des Moines, IA)
CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN

(August 6, 1987; result of special stipulation match victory of Brad Batten over Bobby Jaggers; Kansas City, KS)

**ENGLISH MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLYING FUJI YAMATA** 

(March 3, 1987; from The Black Tiger; Croydon, England)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(April 18, 1987; over Sir Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

\* FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE KEIRN & MIKE GRAHAM

(October 17, 1987; from The Mighty Yankees, Lakeland, FL) INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI

(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

YOSHIAKI FUJIWARA & KAZUO AMAZAKI

(September 1, 1987; from Akira Maeda & Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Kuniaki Kobaya

JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGAYO

(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Omori; Tokyo, Japan)

JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BULL NAKANO & KANDOR SAITO (October 20, 1987; from Kzue Nagahori & Umy Miogura; Tokyo, Japan)

MID-AMERICA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(September 14, 1987; from Carl Fergie; Memphis, TN)

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL

(October 16, 1987; by NWA decision)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES

(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)

NWA TV CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF

(August 17, 1987: from Tully Blanchard: Favetteville, NC)

**NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RONNIE GARVIN** 

(September 25, 1987; from Ric Flair; Detroit, MI) NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

September 29, 1987; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Misenheimer, NC)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: MIKE MILLER

(June 27, 1987; from Rip Oliver; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SUPER NINJA & JOEY JACKSON

(As of September 18, 1987, Jackson replaces Rip Oliver as Ninja's partner)

**PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN** 

(April 24, 1987; tournament final over Hiroshi Wajima; Yokohama, Japan

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYU & ASHURA HARA

tember 3, 1987; from Stan Hansen & Austin Idol; Nagoya, Japan)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTEL (April 13, 1987; from Exotic Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL) SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Wendell Cooley)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: **ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN** 

(May 25, 1987; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON

(September 7, 1987; from Scott Armstrong; Birmingham, AL) STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: OWEN HART

(April 10, 1987; from Makhan Singh; Calgary, Alberta STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman)

TENNESSEE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: DOUG FURNAS (July 17, 1987; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(July 11, 1987; from Nikita Koloff; Greensboro, NC)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(May 16, 1987; tournament final over Barry Windham & Ronnie Garvin)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DIAMOND TIMOTHY FLOWERS

(April 3, 1987; from Billy Two Eagles; Vancouver, British Columbia)

**UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: J.R. BUNDY & RICK DAVIS** (May 9, 1987; from Jonathan Sayers & Diamond Timothy Flowers;

Vancouver, British Columbia) UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS

(July 11, 1987; from Big Bubba Rogers; Oklahoma City) **UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SHEEPHERDERS** 

(October 16, 1987; from Tim Horner & Brad Armstrong; Kansas City, KS)

**UWF TV CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR** 

(September 2, 1987; from Shane Douglas; Lafayette, LA)
WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM

(June 20, 1987: tournament final over Black Bart: Houston, TX)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(October 26, 1987; by World Class officials' decision)

WORLD CLASS JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

September 13, 1987; from Peter Vander Gralin; Durbin, South Africa) WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Kevin, Lance, and Mike Von Erich)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FRANK LANCASTER & BRIAN ADIAS

(October 12, 1987; from Shaun Simpson & Skip Young; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS (May 22, 1987; reinstated by World Class officials)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: TED ARCIDI

(August 31, 1987; battle royal victory; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SKIP YOUNG & TONY ATLAS

(June 29, 1987; tournament final over Ted Arcidi & Texas Red; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI

(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)
WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN (August 9, 1986: from Mad Max & Super Max: Honolulu, HI)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL

(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL GRAN MENDOZA (October 7; 1987; from Hurricane Castillo; Catayno, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TNT

(May 16, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HUNTERS e 20, 1987; from Tony Atlas & Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: KAREEM MUHAMMAD

(June 6, 1987; from Mighty Igor; Juaynabo, Puerto Rico

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MR. POGO & KENDO NAGASAKI er 17, 1987; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Cagu

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

mber 20, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER (July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN

(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY) WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

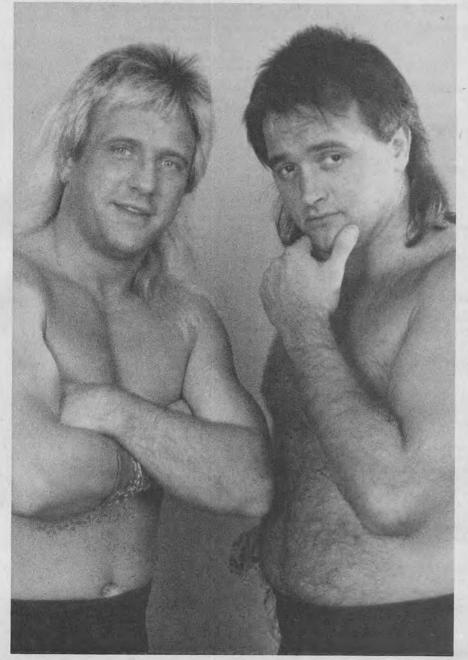
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA

(October 27, 1987; from The Hart Foundation; Syracuse, NY)

# Tully & Arn Take The NWA Belts:

Rick Morton and Robert Gibson (below) should start thinking about splitting up The Rock 'n' Roll Express following the devastating loss of their NWA World tag team belts to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. Morton smacks Jim Cornette after the manager called Morton's father an alcoholic (right).





A series of thoughtless actions and reactions cost Rick Morton and Robert Gibson the NWA World tag team belts in Misenheimer, North Carolina. As hard questions are asked, the answers are inevitable: It's all over for The Rock 'n' Roll Express!

THE END CAME so suddenly, most people didn't even realize what happened. Rick Morton, a bandage around his just-injured shoulder, was enduring a brutal beating at the hands of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson when Robert Gibson stepped into the ring. Help on the way? Was Gibson coming in to even up the score?

No.

The end.

Gibson threw in the towel and The Rock 'n' Roll Express' fourth





# IT'S TIME FOR THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS TO SPLIT UP!

NWA World title reign came to a was the right thing to do. My man very ceremonious end in the very city of unceremonious Misenheimer, North Carolina, after four months and three days. Inside and outside the ring, the Rock 'n' Rolls got their butts kicked that evening. Afterward in the dressing room. Morton and Gibson knew it.

"I didn't see them coming, and by the time they got to me it was too late," said Morton of Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express' sneak-attack prior to the match.

"I was all by myself, and at one time I tried to make the tag, out of instinct, but nobody was there," said Gibson of the match itself. "You can't go into the ring two-onone against Blanchard and Anderson and expect to walk out okay. When Ricky came out of the dressing room, I didn't want to tag out, but eventually I had no choice. But then I had to throw in the towel. It here was getting killed."

The words of resignation came easily-perhaps too easily-for a team that has been at the top so long and so often. Whatever the circumstances. Gibson literally throwing in the towel was a shock, especially with the World belts on the line. Even Morton couldn't believe what he was seeing; he wanted to go on, despite the punishment. But perhaps Gibson had realized an awful truth:

It's all over for The Rock 'n' Roll Express. The time has come for Morton and Gibson, one of the most popular teams in the world, to go their separate ways.

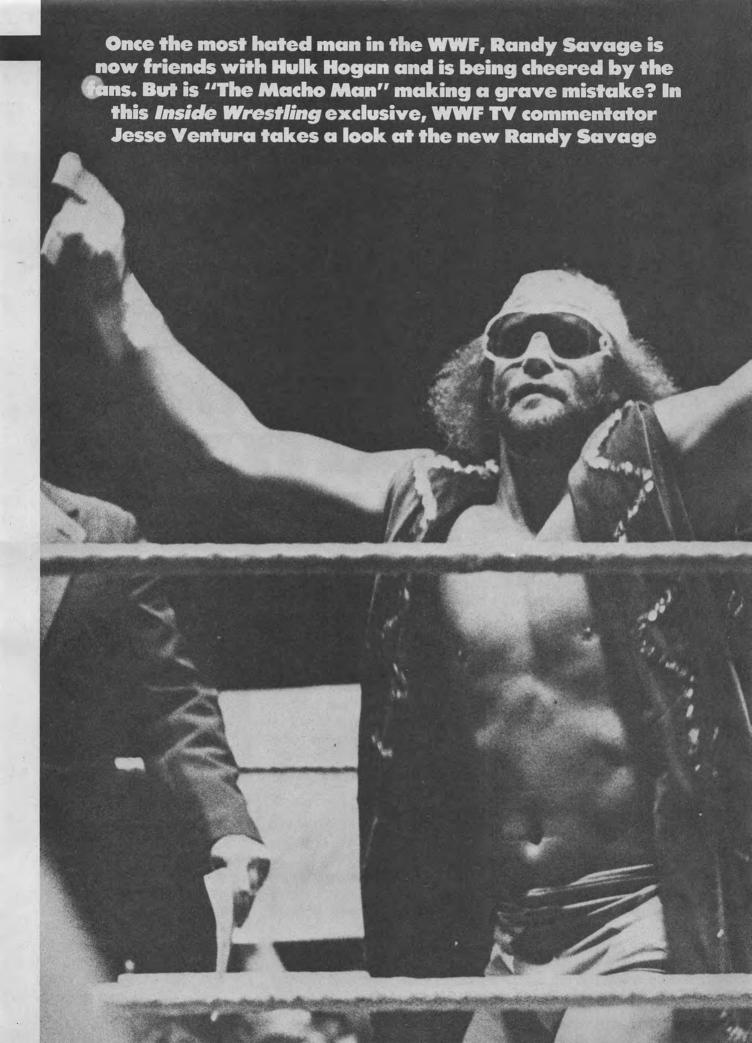
The editors of Inside Wrestling hate to say "we told you so," but we did tell Morton and Gibson what was in store for them. In last month's issue, we warned the Rock 'n' Rolls: "You Can't Take On The

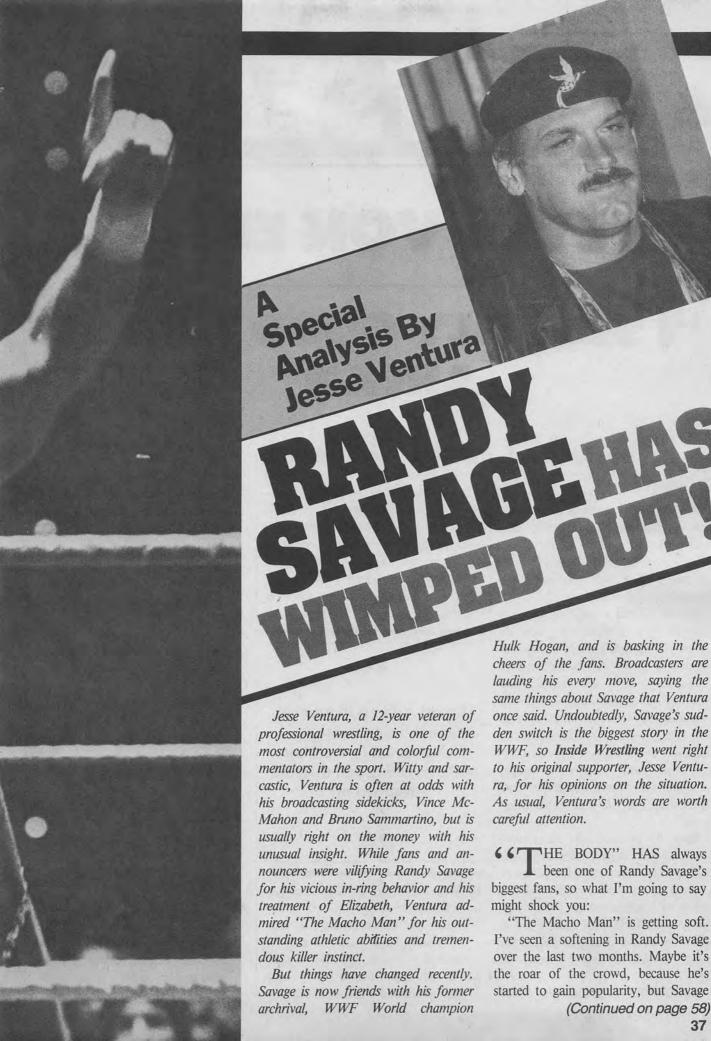


Blanchard elbowsmashes Gibson, who tried to defend the belts by himself.

Four Horsemen Alone!" We urged them to get help in their war against Blanchard and Anderson, two of the toughest, most ruthless individuals in wrestling. They didn't listen and they paid the price.

We didn't realize, however, that Cornette, Stan Lane, and Bobby (Continued on page 56)





# HOTSEAT

# KEVIN VON ERICH

# "I SEE ONLY GOOD THINGS AHEAD"

IN THE SUMMER it seemed that Kevin Von Erich was having more than even a Von Erich's share of bad luck. Nagging shoulder injuries and a feud with former friend Brian Adias culminated in his forfeit of the World Class heavyweight title to Al Perez after the WCCW held him out of a scheduled August 21 match.

But now Kevin is back on top. On October 17 in The Cotton Bowl, he regained the World Class title from Perez in a wild no-holds-barred match.

That same night saw the successful return to the ring of Kerry Von Erich, who sparred three two-minute rounds with Matt Borne, Frankie Lancaster, and Killer Brooks. But Kerry's real return came during Kevin's title match, when ringsiders Kerry and father Fritz mixed it up with Gary Hart and Brian Adias.

Some 20 minutes into the match, Fritz and Hart began going at it outside the ring. Perez had leaned over to lend aid to his manager when he was caught by a discus punch from Kerry Von Erich. Kevin then used a flying bodypress to pin a groggy Perez and retake the title he held for much of 1987.

But Kevin's grip on the belt is not

firm. An irate Hart immediately appealed the title change to the World Class championship committee. A decision was expected any day as Inside Wrestling Assistant Editor Gian Trotta wrapped up a swing through the heart of Texas by talking to Von Erich about past and future triumphs and defeats at the Von Erich ranch in Denton.

66

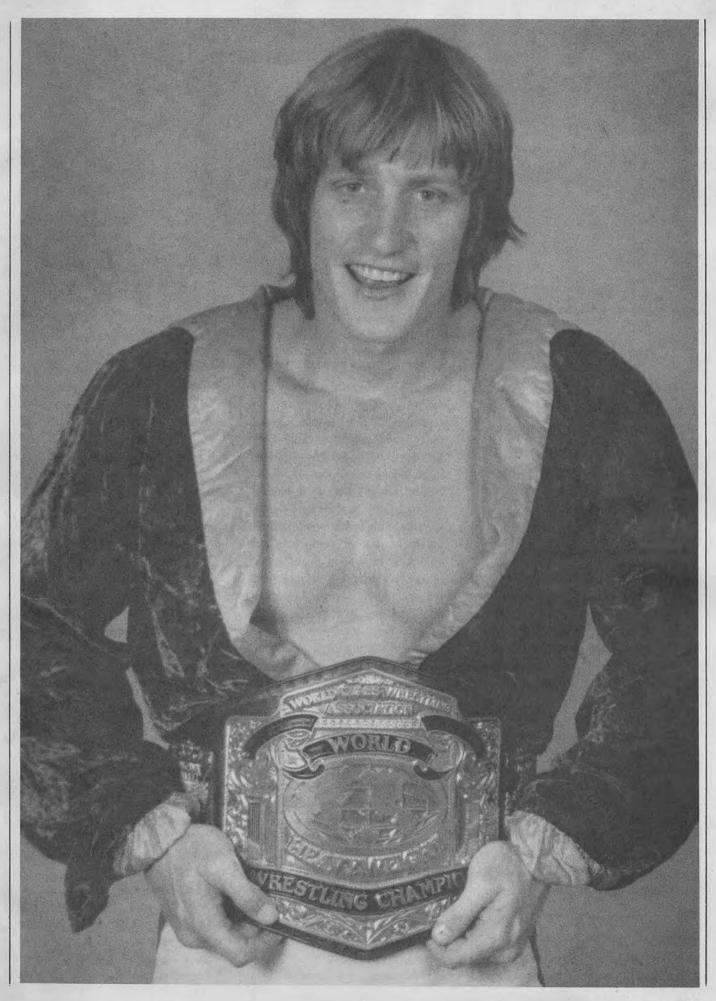
[Brian] Adias is like a mad dog that has to be stopped. He's a threat to everyone and everything and must be disposed of.

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- Q: Well, Kevin, it's certainly been one red-letter month, with you recapturing the title and Kerry's successful return. Have things worked out as well as you thought they would?
- A: As well, if not better. We've really just recaptured what we've had be-

fore, me the title and Kerry his career. Both shouldn't have been lost in the first place. But Kerry's accident was just that: an accident. And what happened to me when I was stripped of the title was an injustice. Both are going to happen in this life, and a person should be ready for both. But both can be overcome with hard work and dedication. We never lose anything that we can't recover. And I see only good things ahead.

- Q: That's spoken like a true Von Erich. But, while I hate to point it out, Kerry's comeback is far from complete, and your hold on the title is less than rock-solid. Three two-minute sparring sessions doesn't equal a match, and Gary Hart has filed an appeal with World Class officials to once again strip you of the title because of outside interference by Kerry. Could you address both these possibilities?
- A: The appeal is out of my hands, so I'm not worried about it. But remember, the referee who let the title change stand obviously had a good reason, and it's going to take some doing to reverse it. Gary





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Having Kerry in my corner is a big asset. I can keep my mind more on the match and worry less about outside interference.

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Hart had already started mixing things up with my father when Perez leaned out to get in a cheap shot and ran right into Kerry's fist. All this action took place outside the ring where the title match itself was taking place. It's not as if Kerry jumped into the ring to interfere. Perez made the first move outside the ring, and I hope the officials remember that. And I think the fact that I was wrongly stripped of the title back in August will also carry some weight with the officials. To a certain degree, it's politics, but I think I've got a good case this time around. So I'm not worried about the decision. Even if they strip me of the title, Perez will always have to give me another title shot.

Q: And as for Kerry's comeback?

A: Kerry is another story. He's kept in control throughout his whole long



Kevin Von Erich slugs Al Perez during their World Class title match at The Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Kevin regained the title, but the result is being appealed to World Class officials.

rehabilitation process, and never for a second thought that he'd not return to the ring, despite what all the doctors said. And that's why he's back. Make no mistake about it, his injury was serious, but Kerry didn't just get out of a hospital bed and jump in the ring. Nobody saw the extra operations to rebuild his ankle, and all the therapy and swimming he had to do as a part of the rehabilitation process. I'm not saying the doctors and therapists and the rest of the family haven't been great-they havebut Kerry's attitude has made evervone's job a lot easier. I have less worries about Kerry than I do about holding on to the title.

- Q: That brings up an interesting point. Should things continue on their present course, would you wrestle Kerry for the title?
- A: (laughs) You know, I'm so glad that that's a problem. Compared to the problems we've had in the past, that kind of worry is almost a pleasure!
- Q: Okay, then let's explore another possibility. Let's say that you lose the title, either through defeat in the ring or another official decision reversal. Would you step aside to leave Kerry a title shot?
- control throughout his whole long A: (pauses) Well, that certainly is a

possibility. But Kerry and I have always been close, and any of our actions will always take the other into consideration. Kerry faces a big task to re-establish himself in the ratings, and I plan to help him every step of the way.

- Q: That's not to deny that Kerry's being back has been a big shot in the arm to you. In fact, you seem like another wrestler in the ring since he's been back. It must be a relief to have him in your corner.
- A: That's no understatement! Having Kerry in my corner is a big asset. This way, I can keep my mind more on the match at hand and worry less about outside interference. God knows, there's been enough of that in the last few months . . .
- Q: ... on both sides. Not to beat a dead horse, but both Kerry and your father have been mixing it up outside the ring on your behalf. And while that strategy's been effective so far, some fans are wondering if they'll ever see one-on-one matches again.
- A: That's something you should ask Al Perez. Or Gary Hart. But most of all, go ask Brian Adias. Adias has been a thorn in our sides ever since he turned on us. I haven't forgotten how that "Oriental tool"

of his almost ended my career and cost me a title. I have no regrets about breaking the thumb that almost crippled me—it meant that I could breathe easier for a few weeks. He's playing for high stakes. Well, I'm not coming to the table without some aces in the hole.

- Q: But Adias' thumb should be healed by the time he faces Kerry at your big Thanksgiving card. Do you worry about history repeating itself?
- A: It won't.
- Q: And why is that?
- A: Because we're fed up with Adias. And we will no longer allow him to hurt us. Kerry's worked too hard to come back to lose it all on the first night to a man who's shown that he has no morality and won't play by any of the rules of common decency. Adias is like a mad dog that has to be stopped. You don't hate the dog, nor do you know what made him that way, but you realize that he's a threat to everyone and everything and therefore must be disposed of-and the sooner the better. It should be done calmly, with no anger, but it must be done . . . you know, it's not our style to let our talking get ahead of our actions. But when I tell you that Brian Adias, and the rest of the criminal element in World Class, will be paid back with interest, you can

- take that to the bank, as you northerners say.
- Q: To whom else are you referring when you say "criminal element"?
- A: First and foremost, I'm talking about Gary Hart, another totally evil and morally corrupt man. Hart is perhaps the most dangerous threat because he coordinates all this mayhem. You can go out and break a wild animal's leg, but until you cut off its head, it'll always be dangerous.
- Q: That's quite a vivid analogy, but can you be more specific?
- A: Hart is the one who ordered Eric Embry and Frankie Lancaster to attack Steve Simpson's eye once he heard that Steve was having problems with his vision. If you watch the tape, you can see that those two didn't care about winning the match. They were just hoping to inflict some sort of permanent injury-and they almost succeeded in blinding him. Now Steve has a detached retina and can't return for at least four months. With Steve out, Adias and Lancaster were able to win the tag belts. They didn't care that they almost blinded a man to do so. That's not wrestling-it's assault with intent to injure permanently, and it has no place in any federation. Especially not one of which I am champion.

Kevin catches Perez in a bodyscissors. Gary Hart and Fritz Von Erich, both at ringside, had a lot to do with the outcome of the match.





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If there's one thing I learned over the past few months, it's that you have to fight fire with fire. I'm tired of constantly getting burned.

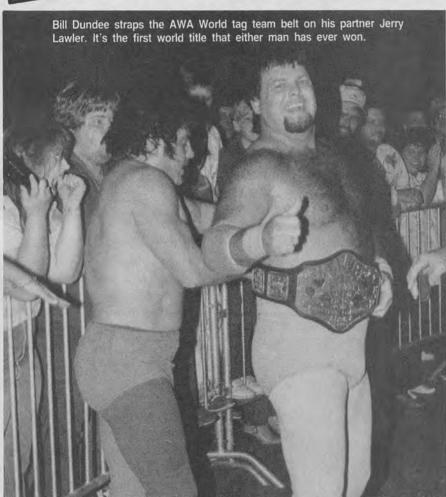
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- **Q:** So you've taken it upon yourself to stop such practices?
- A: Yes. If there's one thing I learned over the past few months, it's that you simply have to fight fire with fire. I'm tired of constantly getting burned. And now, with Kerry back, some people's bills are going to fall due. Kerry's return has been a shot in the arm to myself, the whole promotion, and the fans. When I say that I see good things are coming, it's not just wishful thinking. It's something we've worked for, sweated for, and bled for. Good things come to those who keep their faith, in good times and bad.
- Q: Thanks, Kevin, for your time. I'm sorry I have to leave Texas to get back to the Big Apple.
- A: Don't worry, Gian, we'll all still be here. And things will be even better next time you return.



## PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

# "I WANTED LAWLER 8 DUNDEE TO WIN THE AWA BELTS!"



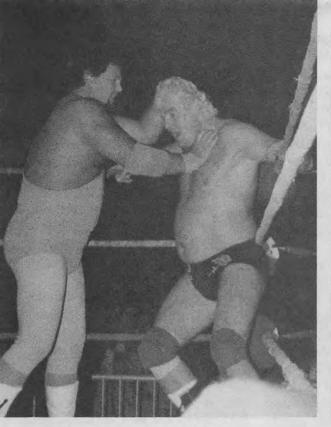
JERRY LAWLER AND Bill Dundee had just defeated Soldat Ustinov and Doug Somers for the AWA World tag team title and the celebration was in full-force in their dressing room at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum. Having won their first World championship, Lawler and Dundee were in a mood to party the night away.

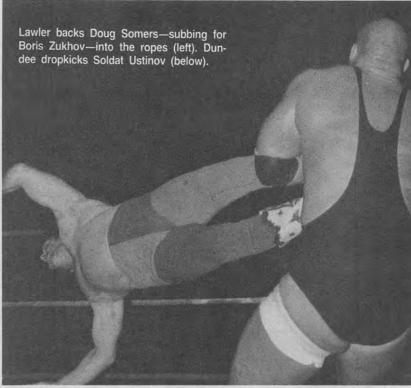
Then, an uninvited guest walked through the door.

"Hey, what the heck are you doing in here you little pipsqueek!" Lawler screamed. It was Paul E. Dangerously, manager of Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey, the "Original" Midnight Express. But, more important, Dangerously is an archenemy of Lawler's and Dundee's from when Dangerously did his dirty work (which included shaving Lawler's head nearly bald) in the Mid-Southern area. "Get your butt out of here before we kick it out for you," warned Dundee.

Dangerously was unfazed, either too stupid to realize that he was in danger of getting his face turned inside out or too arrogant to acknowledge his fear.

You might have thought it was over, but Paul E.
Dangerously's feud with Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee is
as hot as ever. And now the manager of the original
Midnight Express is ready to strip his archrivals of the
AWA World tag team belts!

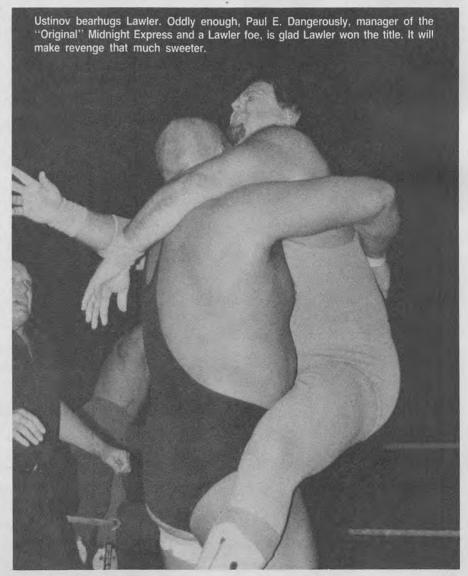




"Hey, cool it guys," said Dangerously. By now, Lawler and Dundee were being held back by the other wrestlers. "I just wanted to be the first man to congratulate Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee for winning the World championship. This was a tremendous achievement, boys, and you should be proud of yourselves. Just enjoy it while it lasts. Bye, now!"

Dangerously walked out of the dressing room, but the party didn't continue. Everybody on hand knew that Dangerously hadn't really come by to congratulate the new champions. This was a good ol' fashion psych job, pure Dangerously in every way. For the rest of the evening, the only thing on Lawler's mind was something Dangerously said after the famous Lawler and Dundee vs. Tommy Rich and Austin Idol scaffold match on June 15 in this very same arena: "I've got the money and I've got the power to put those two jerks out of wrestling forever."

Four months later, that glorious evening in mid-June seemed like yesterday to Lawler. The scaffold match turned out to be the end to a vicious feud that started in January when Idol and Rich combined to inflict a severe groin injury on Lawler. The feud continued



through countless injuries, controversies, and AWA Southern title changes. Along the way, Bam Bam Bigelow and Dundee got involved on Lawler's behalf. But from the start, Lawler's main target was Dangerously.

Lawler and Dundee got revenge in that scaffold match. After Dundee knocked Rich off the 26-foot high



Ustinov slams Dundee (above). Lawler sends Somers sprawling to the mat with a solid right hand (below). Lawler and Dundee gave up their singles titles so they could concentrate on defending the tag belts, and that's exactly what Dangerously wanted them to do.

scaffold for the win, Dangerously climbed up one side and was met at the top by his two adversaries. He managed to get away and scurry down the other side, but halfway down, Dangerously was pushed off and suffered a broken leg. Lawler and Dundee weren't finished. Idol and Rich left Dangerously behind while Lawler delivered a punishing piledriver. Then Dundee and Lawler, each holding one of Dangerously's legs, smashed his groin into the ringposts.

It looked like the feud would heat up even more after that match, but Rich decided to sign with the AWA and Austin Idol left the Mid-Southern area. Dangerously also ended up in the AWA, but not with Rich; their break-up occurred the moment Rich turned his back on Dangerously in Memphis. All this time, Dangerously never forgot what Lawler and Dundee had done to him.

"That's why I wanted Lawler and Dundee to win the belts," said Dangerously, "because now I'm in a position to get revenge. There was no way I was gonna get to them when they were down in Memphis, but now they have no choice because we're the top contenders to the AWA belts. The "Original" Midnight Express is gonna do for me what Rich and Idol didn't have the guts to do. I plan on humiliating Lawler and Dundee. Forever."

Lawler and Dundee obviously realize the difficult task that awaits them. Lawler, the AWA Southern champion, and Dundee, the AWA International champion, both gave up their singles titles so they can defend the World belts. "I'm a firm believer that you can't do two things at once if you want to do things right," said Lawler. "I've never had a world title, and I plan on keeping this one."

The news that Lawler and Dundee gave up their singles belts amused Dangerously. "That's just great," he said, nearly unable to control his laughter. "They're playing right into my hands. Lawler and Dundee give up the singles belts on their own, then get the tag belts taken away by Paul E. Dangerously and company. Let me tell you something, I always do what I say I'm gonna do, and very soon Lawler and Dundee will have nothing. Except a lot of bruises and a couple of broken bones."

Condrey is intent on making his manager's words come true. "I owe a lot to Paul, and now I'm gonna pay him back," said Condrey. "I've seen tapes of the scaffold match and some of the things that happened before it, and I didn't like it one bit. Lawler and Dundee had better brace themselves, because they don't know what they're in for."

Lawler, however, is well aware of what he's in for. He saw how Dangerously operated in Memphis and knows that he's battling for more than the title. "The King of Wrestling" is back in a position where he must fight for his life.

"I missed a lot of time because of injuries inflicted by Dangerously's boys," said Lawler, "and I'd be a fool if I said that he didn't get the best of me a few times. But remember what I said after that scaffold match? I vowed that Dangerously would have both legs broken by the time me and Bill are through with him. By my counting, we still have one leg to go."





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(Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. All other countries \$27.00. U.S. funds only.) Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue. The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

Even the Most gentle person be pushed only so far. After a while he's going to say, "Enough!" and start fighting back. On October 20, 1987, in Shelby, South Carolina, Mighty Wilbur said "Enough!"

Wilbur, a good ol' country boy with aspirations in professional wrestling, was introduced to manager Paul Jones by Red Bastien; Wilbur didn't know what he was getting into. Wilbur wanted to wrestle, but he also wanted to do things by the book. He wanted to have fun and make friends. Jones had other ideas.

Jones, the nefarious manager of Ivan Koloff, Teijho Khan, and The Warlord, wanted Wilbur to attack his opponents after winning his matches; Wilbur refused. Jones didn't want Wilbur to shake hands with the fans; Wilbur loved the fans and insisted on greeting them. Jones ordered Wilbur to help Ivan Koloff double-team opponents; Wilbur steadfastly stood by his ideals.

Yet Jones kept trying to transform the bulky, powerful Wilbur into a heartless killer. He ordered him to stop speaking on TV interviews, but Wilbur was all too willing to speak. Wilbur lovingly called Jones a "puddin" head." Jones became enraged.

In Shelby, when Wilbur refused to stomp his opponent after a match, Jones hit him with his riding crop. Wilbur whipped Jones into the ropes, hammered him a few times, then splashed him. Ivan Koloff and The Warlord ran in to help Jones as Wilbur left the ring.

So what happens now that Wilbur is

# ONE O



"You always wanted me to beat up my opponents after I beat them and that just ain't right. You made me do things that were against my upbringin'."

—Mighty Wilbur

on his own? He'll surely find plenty of people willing to back him in his war against Jones. And Jones won't forget what Wilbur did to him. The two haven't spoken since the breakup, so Inside Wrestling brought them together to air their gripes . . . "One on One." MIGHTY WILBUR:

Well, how ya doing there, you ol' puddin' head, I ain't seen you for a real long time. Listen, buddy, now that we've got together to do some talking, maybe we should try to work things out. Why don't we . . .

PAUL JONES:

You crazy idiot! There's no way you're ever gonna find your way back in the stable of the great Paul Jones, no way in the world! I've made some mistakes in my lifetime, but the worst mistake I ever made was listening to Bastien when he

told me you could be a great wrestler. Listen, you fat hillbilly, you're never gonna make it in this sport until you start learning how to follow orders. Until then, you're stuck by yourself. Got it?

MW: Well, yeah, I guess so, but what the heck did you expect me to do when you got to hitting me with that ridin' crop? Ain't nobody ever hit me with no ridin' crop, 'cept for my pappy—he used to slap me around some when I got to sticking my hand in the cookie jar. I sure as heck wasn't gonna take none of that from you. Besides, you were supposed to be on my side, and you never let me have any fun. What kind of manager were you?

PJ: What kind of manager was I? You're asking me what kind of



"I'm warning you, hillbilly, you're my enemy now. There's no way I'm ever gonna get shown up by some fat, stupid country

bov." -Paul Jones

manager I was? Let me inform vou, buddy, that you're talking a manager of champions. There isn't a man in the NWA with my record, and you were lucky to get involved with a genius like myself. That was the greatest break you've ever had in your entire life, but you ruined it for yourself by not following orders.

MW: Well, I didn't like your orders, puddin' head . . .

PJ: Don't call me puddin' head! MW:

... and I like the fans, they were always nice to me. Then you always wanted me to beat up my opponents after I beat them and that just ain't right. That's just not the fair way to do things. My mammy and pappy taught me to do things honestly, but then you made me do all these things that were

against my upbringin'. Besides, what's so bad about shakin' hands with the other 'rassler before a match?

PJ: What's wrong with shaking hands with the other wrestler before a match? Are you for real, moron? Your opponent is the enemy! He's out there trying to kill you, trying to take your livelihood away, and you're out there trying to get a date with him! What's wrong with it is you just don't have the killer instinct, and if you don't have that, you just can't make it with Paul Jones.

MW: Hey, wait a second, Paul, I hit you, didn't I?

PJ: You jackass! That's the only time I ever saw you show any aggression and it was against the wrong person. You're supposed to make your opponents

fear you, but the only guy you ever attacked was me.

MW: Yeah, and you downright deserved it. You know, I may look like a nice guy, and I am, but I can only be pushed so far. I don't think you're a very nice man. You know, I was talkin' to this guy Dusty Rhodes. he's a real nice man, and he was telling me about all these bad things you done. He said that you try to cheat people.

PJ: Ah, so that's who you're listening to now. Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream." I've got to say one thing about you two: From the neck down, you look alike. In fact, you're kind of similar from the neck up, too. Neither of you is too smart. Maybe I shouldn't be doing this, but I've got a warning for you: You stay clear of Dusty Rhodes, because there's a man who'll just lead you down the wrong path. In fact, you stay clear of all those guys. You show me what you're made of, and maybe one day I'll take you back.

MW: Yeah, well, you know, puddin' head . . .

PJ: Don't . . .! Grrrrrr.

MW: ... now that we've got to doin' a little talkin', I'm not so sure I wanna go back with you. You were always talkin' about money and stealin' people's belts, but I'm a simple boy and that just don't interest me. I wanna have fun and talk to the fans and maybe get my picture in a few rasslin' magazines, like this one that we're talking to right now. You know, Bill Apter told me that if I keep on doing good, they might do a whole story on me. Wouldn't that be a real shindig! You now, the more I think about it, the less sure I am that I want any part of you. Gittin' hit with a big stick just ain't too much fun.

PJ: Is that so? Well, I'm warning you, hillbilly, you're my enemy now, and that means you'll be getting hit a lot more from now on. There's no way I'm ever gonna get shown up by some fat, stupid, country boy. Remember that!

MW: Anything you say, puddin' head. 

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#### SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

everyone, not just those who are in the WWF. If you cannot do your job properly, hang up the poison pens.

> CHRISSY McKENNA Melbourne, Australia

#### ORIGINAL BUT NOT BETTER

Thumbs up to Bobby Eaton for telling off Dennis Condrey in the December issue of *Inside Wrestling* ("One On One: Dennis Condrey vs. Bobby Eaton"). Just because Condrey and Randy Rose are the "Original" Midnight Express, it doesn't make them better.



Jim Cornette has made The Midnight Express the great team they are today, writes Jeff Hutchison, who thinks the AWA's "Original" Midnight Express wouldn't stand a chance against Cornette's men.

Few people had ever heard of The Midnight Express until Jim Cornette took over. Cornette made The Midnight Express what they are today. Face it, if it wasn't for Cornette, the Midnights would still be wrestling in minor promotions, struggling to keep a .500 record. Eaton and Stan Lane are the greatest team in the world and would destroy Condrey and Rose.

When he went to the AWA, Condrey virtually admitted that Eaton and Lane are the better team. If Condrey felt that he and Rose were better, they should go to the NWA to challenge Cornette's team. Condrey knows that if the two Express teams ever met in the ring, Condrey and Rose would suffer the most humiliating defeat of their careers.

JEFF HUTCHISON Youngstown, OH

#### ROSENBAUM BASHER

I would like to meet Dave Rosenbaum in person. Boy, would I give him a piece of my mind! Who the heck does this guy think he is, putting down two of the greatest men in wrestling? I'm talking about Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, The Rock 'n' Roll Express. And I'm not a nine- or 11-year-old kid; I'm a 27-year-old female with two children.

Ricky and Robert are two wonderful people in body and soul. I love them and their wrestling. They work hard and care about their fans. I'm with them all the way, and it's jerks like Rosenbaum who run their mouth to make things look bad for real men.

I hated the story he wrote about The Rock 'n' Roll Express in the November 1987 *Inside Wrestling* ("Behind The Dressing Room Door"). I'm a very quiet and shy lady, but this really ticked me off. As you can tell, I hope The Rock 'n' Roll Express never stoops to his level (ground level, lower than dirt). Rock 'n' roll will live forever! So stuff *that* in your pipe, buddy.

PATRICIA REED Claremont, NH

#### DOGGED DETERMINATION

Thank you for the terrific story about The British Bulldogs ("The Impossible Comeback: The British Bulldogs Claw Their Way Back To The Top") in the November 1987 issue of Inside Wrestling. I truly doubted Dynamite Kid's return, even when I saw him at WrestleMania III. But after seeing a recent match pitting the Bulldogs against The Hart Foundation in Madison Square Garden, I knew the former champs were on their way. Your magazine hit the nail right on the head with its report on Dynamite's new style. Even though he doesn't fly (Continued on page 50)

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#### SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)



Davey Boy Smith pushes Jim Neidhart out of the ring. Reader Randy Baer would like to see The British Bulldogs get more title shots at The Hart Foundation.

around anymore, he's still my favorite of all time. Any man who demonstrates that much courage gets my personal thumbs up.

Now I'd like to let Vince McMahon know something: People still love the Bulldogs. Don't throw away title shots (and probably a great deal of money) by giving them to Strike Force, The Killer Bees, or Jim Powers and Paul Roma. The fans want the Bulldogs to get those belts back, and we know they can. So give Dynamite and Davey Boy the chances they deserve!

By the way, Dusty Rhodes is simply amazing. I didn't know he doubled for Jabba the Hutt in Return of the Jedi until I saw his picture on page 41 of the November issue!

RANDY BAER Muncie, IL

#### CHAMPIONSHIP PARITY

While watching AWA World Championship Wrestling, I got the inspiration to write this letter. I was glad to see that the AWA is going to have a TV title. But what happened to the Americas title that Sgt. Slaughter once proudly held? The NWA has the U.S. title and the WWF has the Intercontinental championship, so it would bring the AWA up to the same standards if

they activated the Americas title. I also feel the WWF would be a lot better if they had a TV title. Then all the major federations would be equal with major titles, although not with talent—too bad!

CRAIG A. DiBELLA Beachwood, NJ

#### NO DUSTY-NIKITA SPLIT

I'm writing about the story in the December 1987 issue of Inside Wrestling, "Rhodes Challenges Luger: Will Dusty's U.S. Title Hopes Split The Superpowers?" I don't think it will. Nikita Koloff is a smart wrestler and he knows how prestigious the U.S. title is. And he also knows that it is the only major NWA title Dusty Rhodes has never held. Dusty was Nikita's tag team partner when he held the U.S. title, so Nikita shouldn't be mad. I really don't think this title chase by Dusty will destroy The Superpowers. And if it does, I'm still with Rhodes, whether he's U.S. champion or not.

RICHARD PINEL Fall River, MA

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#### ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)



Garvin pulls Flair out of the ring. The champion says he'd give his brother Jimmy a title shot, but he's not sure that Jimmy would want one.

**RG:** Hell, yeah! All the cliches are true. Despite what fans read about the life of a professional wrestler, it's not one thrill after another. It's hard work, night after day after night. This makes it all worthwhile. This is the most special time of my life.

LH: Something of a furor has developed over the stipulation that you won't be defending the title until Thanksgiving against Flair. First of all, it goes contrary to the 30-day rule that says a champion must defend the title once every 30 days. How did such a stipulation come into being?

RG: It's something that Flair and I both requested in the Starrcade match contract, it was granted by the NWA, and that's fine by me, because it gives me extra time to do some special training for the match. A lot of wrestlers are making a big stink about it, though, because they can't wrestle me for the title.

**LH:** Lots of wrestlers feel you're easy pickings. They think Flair will beat you on Thanksgiving and they want a shot at the title before that.

**RG:** There's no sense in arguing about it. As much as I'd like to teach Lex Luger and Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard and whoever else wants a crack at me a

lesson, I can't. But after I beat Flair at Starrcade, I'm open to the general public. I've never shirked a challenge in my life, and I don't aim to start now. Whooo! How was that?

**LH:** Leave the "Whoos" to Flair. To the challenger, Ric Flair.

**RG:** They're all challengers now, Lizzie.

**LH:** Would you give your brother a shot at the title?

RG: I don't know if he'd want one. Though Jimmy and I have had our differences in the past, he was the first one to call and congratulate me. I think he's as happy as I am. Of course, if he wanted to . . .

**LH:** You'd forget he was your flesh and blood.

**RG:** I'd pound his flesh and draw his blood ... then I'd hug him and take him out for dinner (laughs).

**LH:** What if Flair were to defeat you at Starrcade? How would you react?

RG: I'd probably throw out my dancing shoes and stay home that night. Look, as athletes, we must accept defeat as much as we crave victory. If I lose the belt tomorrow, at least I had my run. My name'll be in the history books. I will have had my moment. What more can you ask? □

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January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

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#### **JULY 1985**

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Magnum T.A, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.



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December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

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#### DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

Undoubtedly, Dangerously was the impetus behind this wild feud. He was the man who incited the fans to near-riot, but he was also the man who brought the fans into the building in the first place. Since the end of that feud, attendance figures in Memphis have been significantly down. Not coincidentally, the AWA has been much more interesting since Dangerously arrived on the scene.

Love him or hate him, there's no doubting Dangerously's appeal as a colorful sports figure. He's the new version of the old Roddy Piper: obnoxious, outspoken, absolutely outrageous. By all appearances, he is an ordinary man, but his style, his voice, everything about him rubs fans and opponents the wrong way. Dangerously is a wimp with a big mouth, the kind of guy who constantly got his lunch money stolen in school and is now getting revenge.

But the wimp, you see, is smarter than everybody else.

"That's right, and I'm about to turn this place upside down," said Dangerously after the AWA announced that his "Original" Midnight Express of Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey had been granted a series of matches against AWA World tag champs Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee.

"I've wanted to get back at Lawler and Dundee ever since last year, when those cowards Idol and Rich turned their backs on me, and I'm not gonna let this opportunity pass."

Certainly, Dangerously couldn't have planned it any better. This is his chance to kill two birds with one stone: win his first World championship as a manager and get revenge on Lawler and Dundee. It's also his chance to break into the national spotlight. In the Mid-Southern area, Dangerously was only seen by a limited audience. The AWA, however, ap-



Paul E. Dangerously, manager of the AWA's Midnight Express, interferes in yet another of his men's matches. Love him or hate him, Dangerously creates excitement.

pears weekly on ESPN, making him visible to an entire nation of wrestling fans.

When you really think about it, a manager has as much ability as a wrestler to bring an area national attention. Jim Cornette and J.J. Dillon are big reasons why people hate (or love) the NWA's Midnight Express and The Four Horsemen. How many WWF figures in history are more famous than Capt. Lou Albano or more hated than Bobby Heenan? Will wrestling fans of the 1970s ever forget the WWF's trio of rulebreaking managers, Albano, The Grand Wizard, and Fred Blassie? These people are as famous as Hulk Hogan, Bruno Sammartino, and Ric Flair.

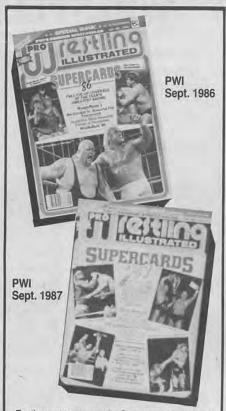
An obnoxious manager fills seats. The fans want to go to the matches because they want to see Dangerously get embarrassed. They'll watch him on TV because they hate him so much. In wrestling, or in any sport for that matter, a manager or wrestler wants to be loved or hated, but not in between. Indifferent feelings mean indifferent crowds. The only thing worse than losing is breaking even.

Dangerously doesn't break even. He wins or he loses, and he always takes chances. "The people hate me, but that's okay, because I hate them, too," he says. "One of the greatest moments of my life was that steel cage match against Lawler in Memphis. I had those people trying to climb over the cage, they were so intent on getting at me. The security guards had to escort us back to the dressing room. I create excitement, baby, and whether they love me or hate me, they're always jumping out of their seats when I'm around.

"Well, let me tell you something, the AWA had better increase its security in its arenas because those fans aren't gonna like me any better in a little while, when my men have those tag strapped around belts their waists," he threatened. "When I'm on top, I like to let everybody know it. When I get my final revenge on Lawler and Dundee, the whole world is gonna know about what I did. And you know what else I'm gonna do? I'm gonna make the AWA the hottest damn federation in the entire world."

Perhaps that's stretching things a bit. But Dangerously is more than capable of pulling off a few surprises.

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#### **ROCK 'N' ROLL**

(Continued from page 35)

Eaton would enter the fray, but being World champions makes a team fair game for everybody. The Rock 'n' Rolls should have realized that trouble was brewing when Morton slapped Cornette during a prematch interview that evening in Misenheimer. Cornette claimed that the Midnights deserved a title shot against the Rock 'n' Rolls, and Morton informed the verbose manager that they're welcome to a match anytime they wanted. So Cornette took his slap in the face and gained revenge later.

The prematch attack by Cornette and the Midnights was swift and sudden. Cornette smashed Morton on the right shoulder with his tennis racket; Lane and Eaton concentrated on the same area with a chair. Finally, Nikita Koloff, Dusty Rhodes, and Barry Windham ran out of the dressing room to help Morton, but by then it was too late; and Gibson was out of control.

Instead of escorting his partner back to the dressing room, or asking NWA promoter Jim Crockett for a delay before the start of the match, Gibson ran into the ring and took on the waiting Anderson and Blanchard by himself. It was a stupid, thoughtless move. In reality, Gibson—not Cornette and the Midnights, and not the double-teaming of Tully and Arn—cost the Rock 'n' Rolls the title. Gibson was overmatched by the Horsemen. He made another stupid mistake later by tagging Morton.

The Rock 'n' Rolls have become careless and far too bold. They overestimated their own abilities. Gibson let his emotions get the best of him. And Morton might have thought he was gallant by returning to the ring, but there's a very thin line between bravery and stupidity.

"Gibson knows that Morton is considered the better of the two and he might have seen the oppor-





tunity to prove himself," said veteran columnist Matt Brock. "Unfortunately, he picked a very poor time to do this. Besides, you can't have a situation in a tag team where one man isn't satisfied with his role. It looks like we have a classic case of a tag team wearing itself out. They don't work well together anymore, and I don't think they'll ever regain the title."

The time has come for a split. Morton's desire for a singles title is well-known, and he certainly has the ability to get the job done. He took former NWA World champion Ric Flair to the limit on several occasions prior to and during the 1986 Great American Bash series. He came very close to winning the NWA TV belt from former champion Tully Blanchard. He desperately wants a series of matches against U.S. champion Lex Luger. Gibson has shown little inclination to wrestle as a solo, and losing Morton would be a serious blow at first. But it also might force him to improve his singles skills and eventuTully and Arn double-team Gibson (top). Morton, his shoulder bandaged, unsuccessfully tries to fight Arn (above). The new champions grant an interview (below).



ally put him in the title picture.

At the Thanksgiving Starrcade show, the Rock 'n' Rolls were scheduled to meet The Midnight Express for the U.S. tag belts. The Road Warriors, not the Rock 'n' Rolls, got the coveted World title shot against Tully and Arn. Even the promoters seem to have sensed

The Rock 'n' Rolls are dead.



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#### RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 37)

has wimped out. It's a great mistake when a wrestler allows the crowd to influence him.

I don't know why this has happened, but all I can say is he's letting the fans get to him. I think that could be positive or it could be negative—it depends on how "The Macho Man" handles it. Let me put it this way: We're right in the middle of the World Series and the fans have been a definite plus for the Minnesota Twins, but I don't think wrestling and baseball go hand-in-hand.

Some wrestlers thrive on the fans' hatred. I know I did. I performed better when there were those infamous yells of "Jesse sucks!" I remember many times in the St. Paul Auditorium when there were 19,000 fans in unison shouting "Jesse sucks!" and that inspired me that much more. Now the key for "The Macho Man" is if he listens to the fans, he has to get inspiration from them. Otherwise, he's just wasting his time.

In the situation on Saturday Night's Main Event with what happened with him, Honky Tonk Man, and The Hart Foundation, someone had to save Savage. I mean, Elizabeth wasn't going to get involved—she couldn't do it—but her running back and getting Hogan is very interesting.

It seems like that's the way Hogan always does it. You know, Hogan always seems to eliminate his contenders by befriending them, such as Paul Orndorff and now "The Macho Man." It seems like every time Hogan runs into someone who's capable of taking the title from him, the way he saves his title is by becoming their friend.

I think he's trusting people a little bit too quickly. Savage was bitter enemies with Hogan and he came very close to winning the title from him. In fact, I think right now, Savage is at the top of his game and could've beaten Hogan. We all saw how close Andre the Giant came to beating Hogan,

(Continued on page 60)

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#### RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 58)



Killer Khan catches Savage in a backbreaker (above). The "Macho Man" scuffles with The Honky Tonk Man (right). Is Savage playing to the fans too much?

and Savage is, right now, a much better wrestler than Andre.

Hogan eventually splits with every friend he makes. It's a way to get them off his tail when they're chasing after the belt and it's also a mind game when he casts them aside. The fans love to cheer Hogan, but they're stupid. Hogan is very smart. He's a devious champ and he manipulates his opponents and the fans. Hulk Hogan does what's best for Hulk Hogan, and "The Macho Man" should definitely keep that in mind.

When I was still wrestling a couple of years back, I thought about taking Savage on as a tag team partner. I thought that a Savage-Ventura tag team would've been awesome, with our two different wrestling styles. It would've been much the same as when I teamed up with Adrian Adonis. We had two different styles, and lots of times two different styles works very well in tag teams.

In the case of "The Macho Man," he has such unbelievable aerial tactics, I was very impressed. I've never seen a man use the aerial moves any better than "The Macho Man" in all the years I've been watching wrestling. That's why I saw him as a tremendous competitor. He's a tremendous raw talent.

"The Macho Man" hasn't asked me—which is a shame, because I could save him from a lot of trouble—but I would tell him to put the fans out of



his mind when he's wrestling. When you see me now, I come into these arenas and the fans stand up and cheer me, too. But it doesn't affect my announcing at all. In a way, me and "The Macho Man" have gone through the same things, because we were both hated and now we're both being cheered.

I've seen Savage wrestle a couple of times since the fans started cheering him, and I'm definitely concerned. He looks confused, and he's not using the same moves he used to. He always had that great killer instinct—I'll never forget what he did to Rick Steamboat—and went right after an opponent from the start. But now he's changed. He sits back and tries to mount a late rally. Being tentative will get him nowhere fast.

Savage just has to go out there and wrestle his style, the style that took him to the top. If he starts laying back, waiting for these fans to cheer for him, and if it takes the fans to get him up and get his adrenaline flowing, get him peaked for a match, Randy Savage is in big trouble.

That would be a terrible waste of talent.  $\Box$ 

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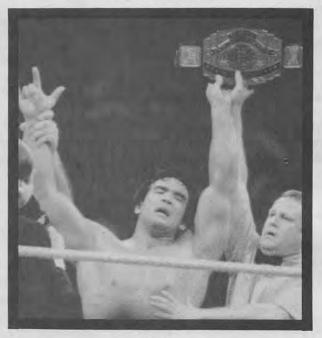
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#### THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Valentine lifts Hogan up for a slam. "The Hammer" came closer to winning Hogan's belt than most people realize. That may be why he hasn't gotten a shot at the champion in so long.

prised and wind up with a new champion.

Which leads us to the most indefensible defense, offered by yet another ranking "source," in the WWF: "Valentine is too small for Hogan. A match between them wouldn't be competitive." It is not entirely true to say Valentine has never received a title shot against Hogan. Over the years he has had several. And on one of those rare nights, recalls my colleague Matt Brock, fans in attendance witnessed the collapse of Hulk Hogan.

"This match never received the publicity it should have," Brock says. "It was treated as just another victory for Hogan, like all the rest, when in fact he came as close as I've ever seen him come to losing.

"Early in the match, Valentine opened Hogan's head with an elbowsmash and Hogan was never able to recover. No one except the people sitting at ringside could tell how dazed Hogan really was, and they were shocked. The feeling was that the title was going to change hands. Right there, in front of a small crowd, a 'mean-

ingless title defense' was about to make big news.

"But face it, Hogan's tenure is a charmed one. After dishing out unbelievable punishment for another 10 minutes, Valentine mounted the top rope to deliver an atomic skullcrusher. Hogan accidentally slipped out of the way. Valentine crashed in a heap and Hogan pinned him.

"Everyone there that night won't forget how close the match was. That's why all this talk about Valentine being overmatched is ridiculous. I'm not saying he'd beat Hogan. But he has as good a shot as any, and better than most."

Based on Brock's eyewitness account, one might believe that Hogan is frightened of Valentine. Perhaps the champ is behind the move to exile Valentine. Whatever the reason, it would be a fortuitous set of circumstances that gets Greg Valentine the hell out of the WWF. There are plenty of othfederations that appreciate competence and consistency, regardless of one's rulebreaking tendencies. Should Valentine stay any longer, he may be tempted to discard the style that has brought him success. He might change to accommodate the promoters.

Better he should retire.

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June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

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January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

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October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Han-sen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff. November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink. January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valen-tine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

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Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler. March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.



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April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos. Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly! June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling. September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs-Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Free-birds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card. November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars! December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas. June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A. Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka,

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II September 1985/Adams-Von Erich.

Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savag

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish face January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdul-

lah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook. March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Han-sen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase. May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II. July 1986/Omdorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny. October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Ex-press, Machine, Gordy, Managers. December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark

Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von. Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Alba-no's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor. June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

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(Continued from page 31)



Sting biel-throws Taylor (above) and gleefully pounds away on Gilbert (below). He says he'll take on Gilbert and Taylor by himself if he has to, but welcomes help from Douglas and others who hate the so-called "First Family of Wrestling."

Against a man like Luger, the combination of strength and scientific ability would be lethal. It would probably enable Sting to win one of the most coveted belts in wrestling. Right now, Sting is nothing better than the equal of Luger. Taylor, a much weaker man but an accomplished scientific wrestler, has the ability to undress Sting. UWF champ Steve Williams, who has some scientific ability in his rough-and-tough power repertoire, is too formidable an opponent for Sting right now.

But things can change, and Sting vows they will. "Doc is a great wrestler, but I think that with a lot of work, I can beat him," he says. "Right now, I'm looking to work my butt off in the gym, learn as much as I can about what you guys call 'the sweet science," and spend more time watching tapes of my opponents. The way I see it, I've had two years in this game to get acquainted, and now it's time to power to the top. Everybody's always talking about my

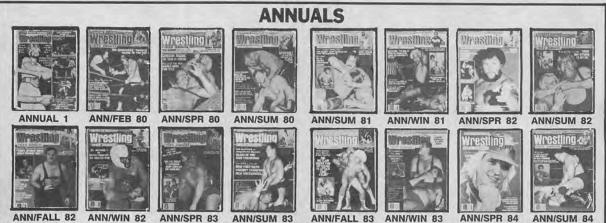


potential, and that can kill a guy, but I'm going to show everybody that I'm even better than they thought I was."

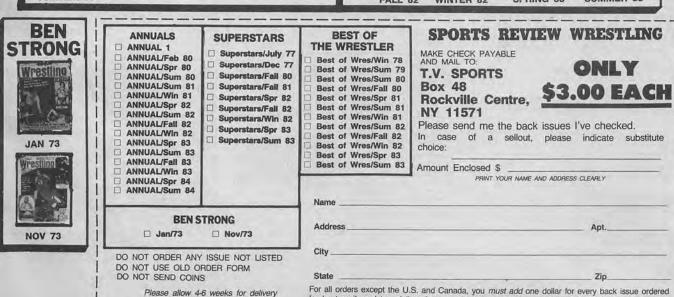
If so, a UWF heavyweight title may be within his grasp. From there, it's not inconceivable that the NWA World championship belt could one day be strapped around his waist. Next year at this time, you might be voting for Sting as Wrestler of the Year.

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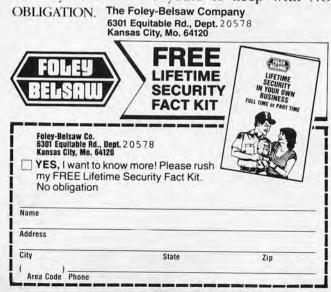
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